

Carolina country



Carolina Country Adventures
Your annual travel guide

ALSO INSIDE:

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N.C. images 1935–1941

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2010 Touchstone Energy Travel Guide

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April 2010

Volume 42, No. 4

FEATURES

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Your 2010 Touchstone Energy Travel Guide takes you to 15 new adventures, three in each of five regions across North Carolina. They are a mix of well-known and not-so-well-known places, places for kids, places for nature lovers, history buffs and shoppers. You'll also find a listing of travel information resources.

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Rafting the Cheoah River in Graham County. It's a 9.25 mile limited release whitewater adventure (www.Cheoahriver.com). See more North Carolina mountain adventures on pages 44–47. Photo: Bill Russ—NC Tourism.



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North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to nearly 900,000 homes and businesses. The 26 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

Why Do We Send You Carolina Country Magazine?

Your cooperative sends you Carolina Country as a convenient, economical way to share with its members information about services, director elections, meetings and management decisions. The magazine also carries legal notices that otherwise would be published in other media at greater cost.

Your co-op's board of directors authorizes a subscription to Carolina Country on behalf of the membership at a cost of less than \$4 per year.



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HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

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Soy ink is naturally low in VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and its usage can reduce emissions causing air pollution.

Working for your cooperative on the national level



By Curtis Wynn

In Atlanta last February, we in the electric cooperative business had an opportunity to reflect on our 75 years of serving Americans. It was a humbling experience that makes me feel proud and privileged to be a part of this amazing network of people.

Although wintry weather and tightened budgets prevented some from traveling, about 7,000 of us attended the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The meeting is a culmination of a year-long process that shows how our form of doing business is truly a democratic way to provide an essential service to the members who own these electric utilities. This meeting allows your cooperative's elected representatives to review and vote on resolutions that guide the overall management of electric co-ops nationwide. The meeting also showcases the best, brightest and most visionary achievements that we make, and it teaches and inspires us to continue serving our membership as best we can.


Member-owned cooperatives are the only types of business in America that operate this way.

Here is a summary of what goes on at this meeting:

- Your elected board members can attend training sessions to help them understand the issues and procedures they must deal with.
- We can visit some 300 exhibitors gathered to tell us about the technologies and services available to our co-ops.
- Our 10 standing committees, which include North Carolina members, meet to consider policy resolutions that have been developed at regional meetings during the year. Later in the general business meeting, all delegates vote on these resolutions.
- Allied national cooperatives—including our financing, telecommunications, branding, information

technology, and insurance co-ops—conduct open annual meetings and set policy for the year.

- Nationally prominent speakers give us their views on issues facing us all.
- Managers, staff, attorneys and specialists give presentations at forums on the day-to-day business we engage in. This year's topics ranged from cyber security and social media to board accountability and energy efficiency.
- Delegates from our various Youth Tour programs join us not only to help in our Congressional Action Center, but also to see this network from a national perspective. Our own Jacob Brooks from Alleghany County was the featured Youth Leadership Council speaker this year.
- We recognize exemplary achievement among cooperatives during the year. This year our own Bright Ideas education grants program, and the Jones-Onslow EMC grassroots action campaign, were among the 10 special award winners.
- We appreciate the work NRECA and individual co-ops do to help communities in need around the world build and maintain electric systems under difficult circumstances. This year we have been making a special effort in Haiti.

When you consider that nearly 900 cooperatives with more than 42 million member-owners serve 12 percent of the nation's population and 75 percent of its land mass, you can understand why I am proud to work in such an open, orderly, sensible and advanced way of doing business to serve you. 

Curtis Wynn sits on the NRECA board as the elected representative of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. He is CEO of Roanoke Electric Cooperative, serving more than 12,600 members in Bertie, Gates, Hertford, Northampton and parts of Chowan, Halifax and Perquimans counties.

Heat and light

During our February snow and ice storm, trees brought down power lines in several counties. Stokes County was hit hard. Power crews worked extremely hard to repair service but we remained powerless for three days.

Living in the country does have some advantages that city folks may not have. The wood stove in our basement provided heat and was also used to cook on. A small generator provided lights for nighttime, but the noise from it grated on our nerves.

I noticed my son's three small solar flood lights remained lighting the walkway to his front door. We brought the light set into his living room and set the solar panel in a window. The solar panel has an on-and-off switch for control. Who knew a \$30 light set could provide so much comforting light inside? Indoor camping took on a whole new meaning.

I still want to thank all of you who worked so hard to restore our power.

Wendy Sheppard, Stokes County



Protect our schools

Gov. Perdue discussed how she is keeping jobs in the state ['Q & A,' February 2010]. Her quotes, "I worked ... to protect the classrooms first," and "we were able to shield our public school classrooms from massive cuts," fell short of what I am seeing in our public school systems. Teachers were cut last year, and it is estimated another 900 face another round of cuts this year, and this is only in one county.

Teachers are lacking in monies to help complete their classroom. Media specialists are being cut to save money. Gov. Perdue wants "to guarantee that all children graduate career ready." How can a school without resources prepare students to be career ready?

Gov. Perdue cannot keep jobs here with a population that is lacking in the core education that they need in grade school. As a teacher, I truly hope that she will assist us in the one job that we love, watching children prosper and learn.

Michelle Green



Snow day

This female cardinal picked a bad day to take a bath. So I threw some food in the bath for her.

Ron Keller, Lincolnton

Nandina

Nandina leaves in our yard after a rain.

Joyce Miller, Franklinton

Some sugar

My 3-year-old little girl, Zoe Gambill, being nibbled by a horse.

Jill Gambill, Alleghany County, Blue Ridge Electric

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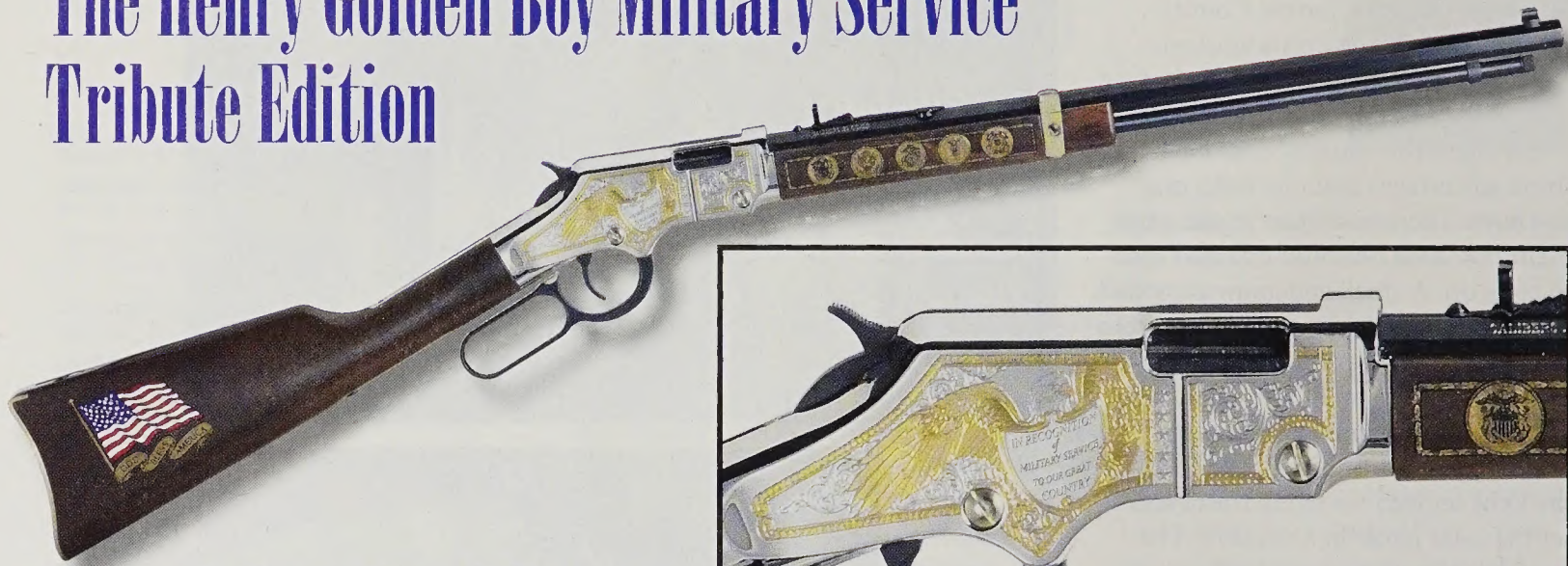
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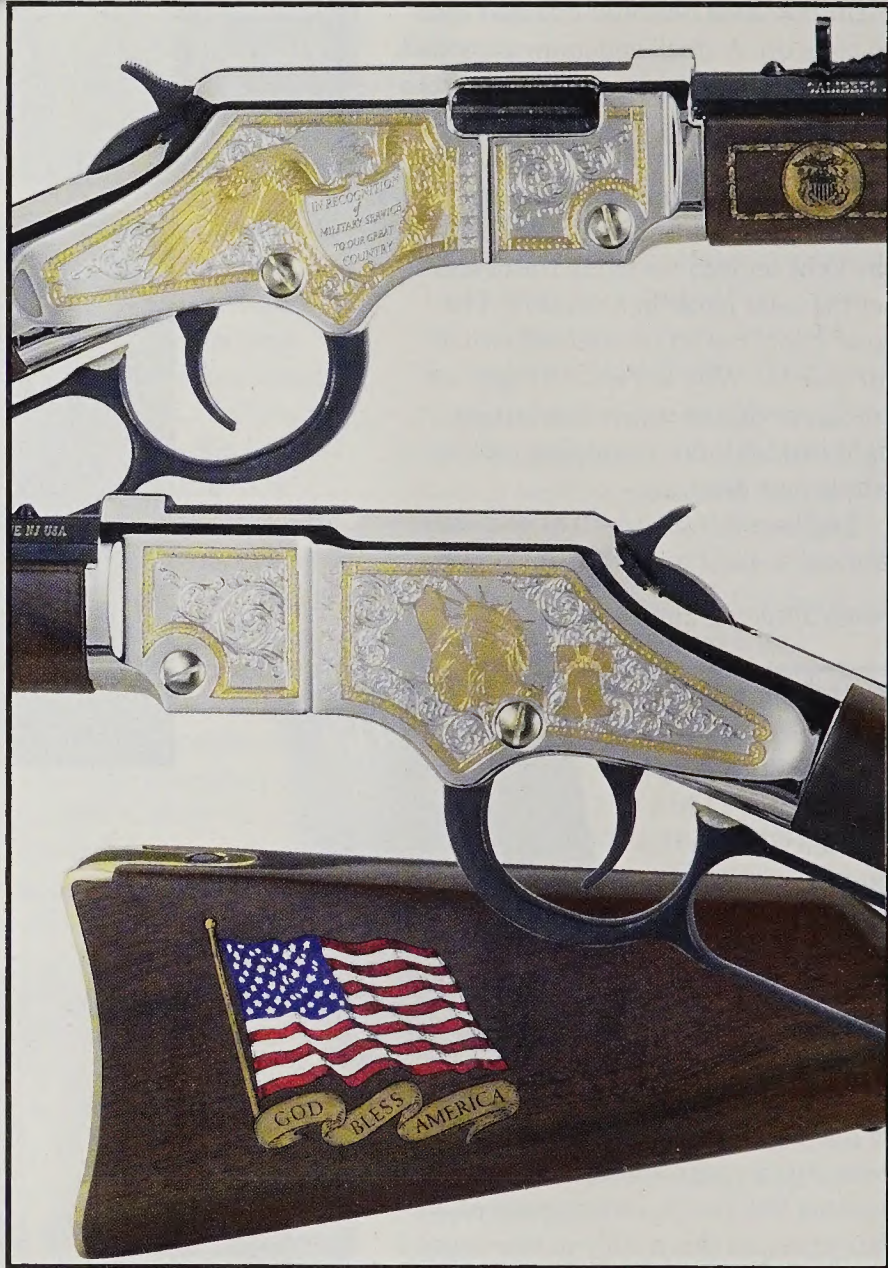
The Henry Golden Boy Military Service Tribute Edition



In Recognition of All Who Answer the Call of Duty

From the beaches of Normandy, the hills of Korea and the jungles of Vietnam to the sands of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan, America's servicemen have led the charge in the fight to preserve freedom around the world. To honor those heroic marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen who sacrificed their lives in service to our country and to show our appreciation to all who answered the call of duty to preserve our liberty, we are proud to offer this commemorative Henry Golden Boy "Military Service" Tribute Edition.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each Henry Golden Boy "Military Service" Tribute Edition will be donated to the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Wounded Warrior Project and the Fisher House for military families. Whether purchasing one to present to those who have served, or for use in any fund raising effort, or simply to own and proudly display this beautiful and historic collectible, you will be making a contribution to America's most worthwhile veterans' organizations.



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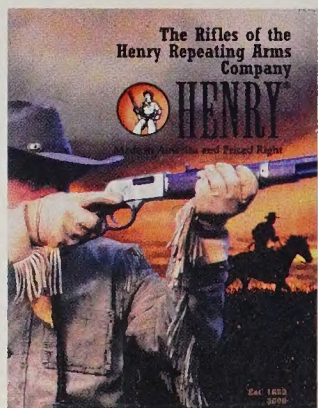


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She's
*Cute
As a Button*

by Master Doll Artist Dorothy Steven

First issue in the
Heavenly Handfuls
Sweet As You Please
collection

Product may
vary slightly in
appearance and/or
materials.

Heavenly Handfuls *Sweet As You Please* babies are approximately 5" long and are posable. Pictured above is "Cute As a Button" with some of her friends who'll be coming soon to your collection.

These dolls are not toys; they are fine collectibles to be enjoyed by adult collectors.



Miniature Masterpieces That Are Sweet As You Please!

The magic and sweet, sweet charm of miniature fine doll art is here to please you day and night. Presenting the Heavenly Handfuls *Sweet As You Please* collection, featuring dolls created by internationally renowned doll artist Dorothy Steven.

"Cute As a Button" is the first Heavenly Handfuls *Sweet As You Please* issue. A tiny masterpiece of sculpting, this delicate craftsmanship is re-created in the finest quality artist vinyl and hand-painted. Her soft body makes her posable in many different ways. And you'll be amazed at the marvelous costuming, especially her tiny, crocheted "hoody", accurate to scale and beautifully made—with a big pink button decoration that's as cute as she is! And she fits neatly right in the palm of your hand.

Don't Miss Your Chance to Own These Delightful Little Dolls!

As you might expect, this charming achievement in doll art is bound to be in great demand, so ordering right away is highly recommended. "Cute as a Button"—and all the other babies in the Heavenly Handfuls *Sweet As You Please* collection—can be yours for just \$29.99* each. Our 365-Day Guarantee assures 100% satisfaction. You may cancel your subscription at any time. To order, send no money now. Just complete and mail the coupon today.

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E-mail Address _____ **913278-D67201**

*Plus a total of \$6.99 shipping and service charges. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for shipment after order is received. All orders are subject to acceptance.

WHERE IN CAROLINA COUNTRY IS THIS? →

This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by April 7 with your name, address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.

By e-mail: where@carolinacountry.com

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country?
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our May issue, will receive \$25.



March

March winner

The March photo showed Ramp 43 on Cape Hatteras National Seashore south of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. This is access to Cape Point. You can park and walk to the beach here, but watch out for the vehicle traffic when the fishing's good. The \$25 winner chosen at random from all the correct ones was Greg Watson of Lexington, a member of EnergyUnited.

Are you facing foreclosure?



Last year, there were more than 60,000 foreclosure filings in North Carolina. The N.C. Office of the Commissioner of Banks expects this number to increase at least 20 percent this year.

When a foreclosure happens, it affects the whole community. Foreclosures bring down surrounding property values, and because so many homes are left vacant, there is potential for increased crime and loss of business revenue.

State Home Foreclosure Prevention Project (SHFPP) is a state-led program that offers free foreclosure assistance

to any North Carolina homeowner who is struggling with his or her mortgage.

For free foreclosure assistance, call toll-free (866) 234-4857 from 8 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday–Friday, and 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday. You will be connected with a HUD-approved counseling agency that can help you over the phone or provide face-to-face counseling. A full list of these counselors and additional information can be found at www.fightncforeclosure.org.

Beware of foreclosure rescue scams. It is illegal to charge upfront fees for foreclosure assistance in North Carolina. Foreclosure scams can be reported to the Attorney General's office by calling (877) 566-7226 or filing a complaint online at www.ncdoj.gov.

April rebates on new appliances

The N.C. State Energy Office is coordinating a statewide program the week-end of April 22–25 in which residential consumers can replace any of four inefficient appliances with new ones and receive a 15 percent rebate. Check with your appliances dealers to see if they are offering the rebate on four Energy-Star appliances—refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers and freezers—when you replace your old one. For more information visit the N.C. Energy Office at www.EnergyNC.net.



Try This!

Q: How can I estimate how much I am paying to run older electric appliances?

A: Some homeowners forget the impact inefficient appliances have on a home's monthly power bill. Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993 with a new, Energy Star-rated model could knock between \$65–\$100 off your electricity bill each year. To sweeten the deal, rebates funded by the federal stimulus bill provide further incentives for folks replacing old appliances with new, energy-efficient alternatives. [See "Rebates" on page 8.]

So on your older appliances, how much energy use is too much? To estimate the energy use of an appliance, use this formula:

$$\text{Wattage} \times \text{Hours used per day} \times \text{Days used per year} \div 1,000 = \text{Kilowatt-hour (kwh) used annually}$$

For example:

$$\text{Standard, large-screen television (214 watts)} \times 4 \text{ hours per day} \times 365 \text{ days per year} \div 1000 = 312 \text{ kwh}$$

Then calculate the annual cost to use an appliance by multiplying the kwh per year by your electric cooperative's rate per kwh used.

$$312 \text{ kwh} \times \$0.118 \text{ (the national average kwh rate)} = \$36.82 \text{ per year}$$

In contrast, an Energy Star-rated standard, large-screen TV (151.5 watts) costs \$25 (using the national average kwh rate).

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Since some appliances have a range of settings (for example,

hairdryers), the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Here are examples of the range of wattages for common household appliances:

Clothes washer: 350–500 watts

Clothes dryer: 1800–5000 watts

Dishwasher: 1200–2400 watts
(heat drying feature increases energy use)

Hair dryer: 1200–1875 watts

Microwave oven: 750–1100 watts

Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet): 725 watts

Once you calculate how much money you spend to run aging home

appliances, compare this to what it would cost to use more efficient models. With incentives bringing down the price of an Energy Star-rated refrigerator or clothes washer, the annual energy savings could be worth an up-front investment. There are other benefits, too. For example, not only have clothes washers become 64 percent more energy efficient since 2000, the tub size increased by 9 percent. With a new model you can wash more clothes for less money every month!

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; U.S. Energy Information Administration, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, Natural Resources Defense Council, U.S. Energy Information Administration

TOGETHERWESAVE \$07,293,170
What's this?

Home Add Up Your Savings Share Your Story Watch and Learn Energy Saving Applications Contact Us

What can you do?

Upgrade washing machine	\$0
Seal the cracks	\$0
Upgrade your HVAC	\$0
Upgrade your refrigerator	\$100
Upgrade your dishwasher	\$0
Adjust your thermostat	\$0
Adjust the blinds	\$0
Adjust your water heater	\$0
Turn off the lights	\$0
Plug the plug	\$0
Add insulation	\$0
Install CFLs	\$0
TOTAL SAVED:	\$100

END TOUR

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Walk-through savings

Don't want the hassle of adding up the potential savings? Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' Web site, www.TogetherWeSave.com, demonstrates how small changes like replacing an appliance or unplugging electronics lead to big energy savings. On the Web site under "Add Up Your Savings," you can walk through a typical home's kitchen, living room and other common areas. Upgrade appliances and make other energy-smart choices in each room. Each time you make a change, you're shown how much money you could save on your annual electric bill.

Can you help others save energy?

Send your conservation ideas or questions to us:

P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611, or E-mail: editor@carolinacountry.com

North Carolina cooperatives shine in Atlanta

North Carolina took center stage three times during the annual meeting of the nation's electric cooperatives held in Atlanta in February. The state's co-ops were recognized for the Bright Ideas education grants, Jones-Onslow EMC took home an award for its grassroots congressional action campaign, and a Blue Ridge EMC Youth Tour delegate delivered a speech on behalf of all 2009 Youth Tour delegates.

Besides the awards and speech-making, the meeting attracted some 7,000 electric co-op representatives who focused on setting policy for the year as well as on hammering home to the federal government certain key points intended to make the nation's energy policy make sense to rural Americans.

Setting the tone for the discussion with the federal government, CEO Glenn English of the host National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) said in his keynote that a unified, focused co-op position can help cut through the polarization and political stridency in the nation's capital that has stalled efforts to produce constructive energy-related legislation.

"Electric cooperatives cannot afford a scorched earth politics. We cannot afford to participate in that kind of political debate. That divides co-ops," English said.

In blunt language, co-op leaders heard English explain how the move to have the Environmental Protection Agency regulate carbon emissions from stationary sources under the federal Clean Air Act could severely affect co-ops' financial condition. He said the apparent failure of Congress to adopt comprehensive climate change legislation makes it more likely that EPA will fill the regulatory void, and he called on co-op leaders to back recently introduced bills that would effectively block the agency from proceeding.

The assembly also heard from CNN analyst and former presidential advisor David Gergen, who described the urgency of current economic conditions, and from actor Ed Asner, who portrayed Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the occasion of FDR's visits to Georgia and his leadership in rural electrification 75 years ago.

During educational sessions prior to the meeting, members of co-op boards learned about practices and issues they face as elected directors.

Voting delegates, including many from North Carolina, reviewed and enacted resolutions on policy that will guide electric cooperatives through the year. Additionally, North Carolina representatives sat on some of the 12 committees assigned to do business. They included David Beam of N.C. Electric Membership Corporation, Cooperative Research Council; Frederick A. Tedder, Brunswick EMC, Community and Economic Development; Millie A. Lilley, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Member and Public Relations; and Mitchell L. Keel, Four County EMC, Power and Water



Jacob Brooks, Alleghany High School senior, represented Blue Ridge Electric and all North Carolina in delivering the Youth Leadership Council address.

Morgan Lashley, who coordinates the Bright Ideas grants program for North Carolina's electric cooperatives, accepts a national Community Service Award at the cooperatives' national meeting in Atlanta. Assisting is Brad Furr, general manager of Albemarle EMC and president of the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Steve Goodson (right) of Jones-Onslow EMC, accepts a Paul Revere award at the NRECA annual meeting in recognition of the co-op's work in helping a state-leading 19,330 consumers contact government officials to express opinions on energy issues. NRECA president F.E. "Wally" Wolski presented the award.

Resources. Curtis Wynn of Roanoke Electric Cooperative represented the state as an NRECA board member.

Forums allowed participants to discuss with experts such topics as the "smart grid," board accountability, social media technology, energy efficiency, and nuclear energy.

Ten North Carolina co-ops were recognized for achieving national safety accreditation in 2009: Blue Ridge, Carteret-Craven, EnergyUnited, Halifax, Haywood, Lumbee River, Roanoke, Rutherford, South River and Tideland.

Allied national cooperatives—including financing, telecommunications, branding, information technology, and insurance co-ops—conducted open annual meetings as well. The National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation elected Delbert Cranford of Randolph EMC its secretary-treasurer.

—Michael E.C. Gery

Fridge Facts

The average refrigerator sold today uses less energy than a 60-watt lightbulb left on for 24 hours a day.

Every year refrigerator efficiency improves. An average 2008 fridge consumes 3 percent less energy than one made in 2007.

44 percent of fridges that could be retired or recycled are used as second fridges, sold, or given away.

26 percent of all U.S. households maintain a second refrigerator.

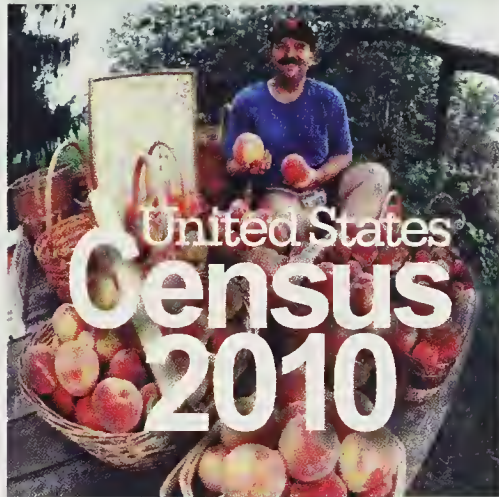
Only three out of every 10 refrigerators sold are Energy Star-qualified.

27 million inefficient fridge models made before 1993 are still in American homes.

Source: Energy Star, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers.
Image: GE Consumer Products

How the U.S. Census helps you

North Carolina's response rate in the 2000 census was about 64 percent. Among our 85 rural counties, 60 had response rates below the state average and 10 had response rates of less than 50 percent.



Required by the U.S. Constitution to take place every 10 years, census counts are used to determine the number of congressional seats for each state, the shape of legislative and local government districts, and how more than \$400 billion in federal funds is distributed annually to communities across the country.

All populations, including recent immigrants, minorities, college students living off-campus and rural residents, will be counted. This year's census is the shortest in history: 10 simple questions. The results will be kept strictly confidential. No identifying information on the census form will be shared with any government agency or any individual. It's the law.

Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered. Census takers are sworn to confidentiality.

The U.S. Better Business Bureau advises people to ask census takers for their identification. They are required to wear badges and will carry handheld devices, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. People will not be asked for financial information.

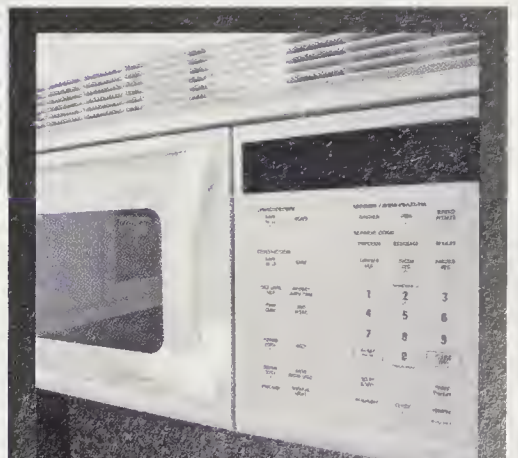
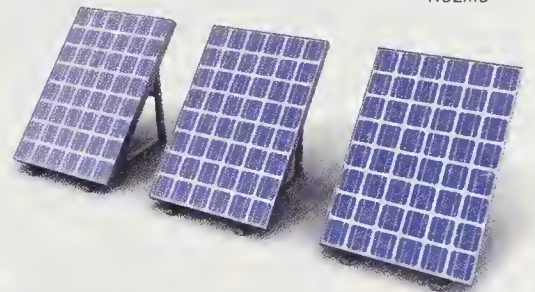
For information about the 2010 Census, go to www.2010census.gov.

Electricity by the numbers

• It would take **667 D-cell batteries** to run your average refrigerator for a day.
—Indiana Statewide Association of Electric Cooperatives

• To replace all the coal-fired power plants in the U.S. with wind power farms would require **59,456 square miles of land mass** (roughly the size of Georgia), even before building transmission lines to carry the power.
—Wind Vision

• To build a typical 800-megawatt nuclear plant today will cost about **\$5 billion**, to produce enough energy to serve the annual needs of about **6.5 million homes**. An equivalent-sized photovoltaic solar facility would cost about **\$10 billion**, would serve about **1.4 million homes** (when the sun is shining) and would require about **8,000 acres** to construct.
—NCEMC

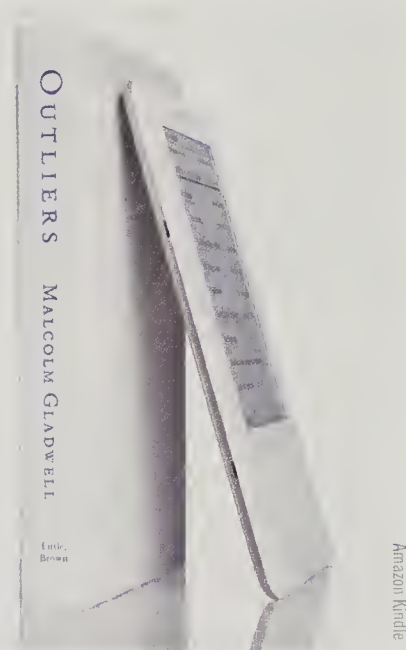


ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP
Use your microwave for cooking whenever possible. They use 50 to 65 percent less energy than conventional ovens and do not heat up your house in the summer. However, conventional ovens may be more appropriate for larger size items when cooking time is increased.

New energy d-r-a-i-n-s

Even with advances in energy efficiency, consumers continue using more energy

By Megan McKoy



Odds are your home has a big-screen television, a satellite or cable box, a DVD or Blu-ray player—maybe two or three. Add to that an Xbox, Wii, PlayStation or other video game console, and your entertainment center's ready to go.

Most of us depend on a large number of electronic gadgets these days—and not just for entertainment. Personal computers, stereos, alarm clocks, coffee makers, battery chargers, cell phones, microwaves... the list goes on.

Most of the electricity used in the average home goes toward heating and air conditioning, water heating and lighting, all of which are significantly more energy efficient than even just a decade ago. Yet our demand for new electronic devices means we continue to consume more electricity every year—a whopping 15.6 percent rise since 2000. Younger American consumers spend more time playing games, listening to music, and watching TV on cell phones than talking on them, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

"Despite anticipated improvements in energy efficiency, any energy savings are likely to be overshadowed by rising demand for technology," cautions Nobuo Tanaka, executive director for the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), an autonomous body. He estimates by 2030 consumer

electronic use will climb threefold—equivalent to the combined residential electricity consumption of the United States and Japan.

There are ways to avoid the coming energy pile-up. For example, cell phones are now extremely energy efficient because of consumer demand for longer battery life. If consumers demand manufacturers reach the same level of efficiency with other electronics like gaming consoles, televisions and even alarm clocks, IEA believes energy use in this sector could be cut in half.

Appliance accountability

Computers and monitors were the first products to receive an energy efficiency rating from Energy Star, a program launched in 1992 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Since then, more than 60 categories have been added, from dishwashers and windows to DVD players.

Energy Star-rated products deliver the same or better performance as comparable models while using less energy. Although actual energy savings depend on what's being replaced, new Energy Star appliances save significantly more energy. For example, switching out a clothes washer made before 2000 with a 2010 Energy Star model could save a consumer up to \$135 per year on his/her electric bill. Replacing a refrigerator made before

1993 could save up to \$65 annually. However, 44 percent of refrigerators that could be retired and recycled are converted into a second fridge, given away, or sold—keeping inefficient technology in American homes.

Silent energy drains

Oddly enough, many electronic devices draw power while waiting to be used. Very likely, your big-screen TV, DVD player, and stereo burn kilowatt-hours even when turned off. According to IEA, this standby (or phantom) load accounts for more than 5 percent of residential electricity demand.

Although the amount of standby power used by individual appliances may be small—often between 0.5 watts and 10 watts—a typical home may have 20 appliances on standby at any given time.

Get a rebate this month

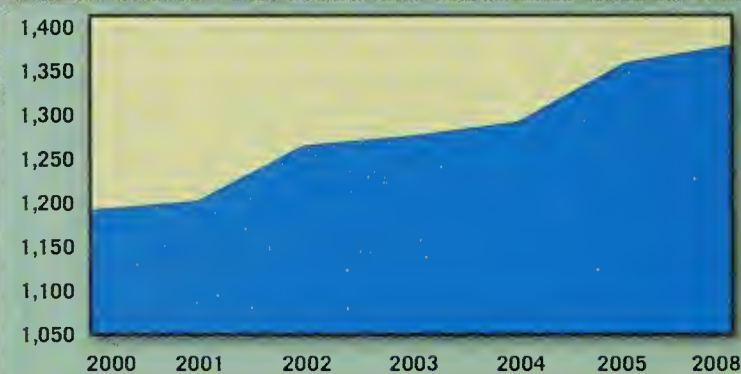
Thinking about replacing an old refrigerator or washing machine? Check with your appliances dealers to see if they are offering a 15 percent rebate on four Energy-Star appliances, when you replace your old one the weekend of April 22–25: refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers and freezers. For more information visit the N.C. Energy Office at www.EnergyNC.net.

Megan McKoy writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Appliances more efficient, but energy use rises

Although appliances have become more efficient, American consumers are adding more electronic devices in their homes. As a result, overall energy use rises every year.

Average Annual Residential Electricity Use billion kilowatt-hours



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

Since 2000:

Energy used by clothes washers drops 64%

Refrigerator, dishwasher energy use drops 30%

Consumer energy use rises 15.6%

JACOB'S LOG: Taking action in Atlanta

By Jacob Brooks

I went to Atlanta back in February for the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. I had an absolutely amazing time, and I thought I would share my stories with you.

My flight was scheduled to leave on Friday the 12th right around 11:30 a.m. Of course, due to the crazy winter weather this year, that didn't happen. My flight was canceled and it seemed like my trip was already taking a turn for the worst. Luckily, my hero Grey Scheer, of Blue Ridge EMC, was driving down for the meeting early; I hitched a ride. Grey and I departed Lenoir right around 9:30 a.m. and arrived in Atlanta at roughly 3:30 p.m. When we arrived we were greeted by an old friend: snow. Let me take the time to remind you that Blue Ridge EMC is located in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. You can rest assured that I've had my fair share of snow days this winter. Anyway, Grey dropped me off at the hotel where I finally met up with the rest of the Youth Leadership Council. My trip was finally underway.

On Saturday the YLC participated in a community service project at a local high school. We, along with other members of cooperatives from around the nation, replaced old fluorescent light bulbs with new energy-efficient ones. We worked all day Saturday and changed hundreds of light bulbs. I would also like to mention that the city of Atlanta does not possess any sort of tools to use on the roads for snow and ice. Our tour bus climbed a hill at 2 mph for 45 minutes while trying to find this school. I found it to be very entertaining.

Sunday was a work day at the convention center where the meeting was held. The YLC was responsible for working the Congressional Action Center. Our job was to recruit cooperative members to send e-mail to their Senators and House representatives that dealt with current energy issues. You too can "Take Action" by sending an e-mail to your elected representative. Visit <https://ssl.capwiz.com/nreca/home> and follow the instructions.

Monday was the first General Session of the annual meeting. The YLC took part in the Parade of States. This is the ceremony where each member of the YLC carries their



Michael E. Gery

state's flag across the stage. I would like to say it was an honor to represent North Carolina and carry our state flag.

Monday was also a special day for all of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. The North Carolina Electric Cooperative Association was awarded the National Community Service Award for Youth Programs. North Carolina's "Bright Ideas" grants have awarded millions of dollars to local schools over the years. Way to go North Carolina!

Tuesday was the big day; I gave my speech. I sat backstage anxiously awaiting someone to tell me it was my time. I will say that I wasn't that nervous, but when you are running on five hours of sleep it's somewhat hard to possess any emotions. However, once I hit the stage, my adrenaline started pumping. I was somewhere between excited, tired, proud and nervous. Nevertheless, I delivered my speech, and it went great. It was one of the best experiences I have had.

I would like to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as North Carolina's representative for the Youth Leadership Council and as the National Spokesperson for the Youth Leadership Council. It was an experience of a lifetime. I would do it all again in a heartbeat. 🇺🇸

Jacob Brooks is a senior at Alleghany High School in Sparta.



Follow Jacob on the Carolina Country page on Facebook.

I Remember...



I am on the right end sitting on the steps with No. 3 on my suit.

The Farmer girls team

The Farmer High School girls basketball team in 1940 had pictures taken on the steps of the old Farmer High School in Randolph County. The gentleman in the back row was our coach, Mr. E. S. McCloud.

We had to practice on a dirt court in all kinds of weather because we had no inside gym. When it rained or snowed we had to wait until the court dried off before we could practice, but we still had a lot of team spirit, didn't win many games, but had lots of fun.

Schools we played in the county were Seagrove, Randleman, Franklinville, Coleridge, Liberty, Gray's Chapel and Ramseur. We always had to travel to other schools because we had no gym. Most of the schools in the county have been consolidated into much larger schools now.

Juanita Winslow, Denton, EnergyUnited

The drive-in movies

One of my favorite memories of growing up in the mid-1960s to the late 1970s was going to the drive-in movies. Saturdays after our chores were finished Daddy asked if we wanted to go see a movie at the drive-in. Our answer was yes, yes and yes!

Saturday afternoon couldn't come soon enough, especially during the long hot summer months. We packed in the car like sardines, and we were on our way.

When we saw the movies that were showing on the entrance sign it excited us even more—double features of dead zombies and spooky-looking creatures. When Daddy paid, we drove around for a spot with a good view and waited for dark. We'd visit the concession stand to buy fries, hamburgers and hot dogs with an ice-cold Coke.

The movie finally lit up on the big screen. It didn't take long for us to sink down in the car seats. The dead zombies gave us a good scare. Daddy would let us watch at least half of the second movie. It was so groovy getting to go to the drive-in movies.

Donna Triplett, Ferguson



Even though Phil and I were not twins, everybody thought we were, and most people still think so.

Peace and happiness

When I was 5, life was carefree, fun and a whole lot more. It was sunny days, dogs, ice cream, wagon rides in our Red Flyer, and time with Phil. Sometimes we got in trouble, but it was all worth it, because I loved hanging out with my best buddy, my big brother, Phil.

Roads were not paved, and the fields were lined with wheat, barley and oats. We spent many days barefoot and playing in the creek catching crawdads and looking for minnows. You could walk outside and see for miles without seeing a building or a billboard. The air was clean, and the evening shown bright with stars at night.

What's so strange is that I'm only 52 and it seems like a lifetime ago, because now there's a high-tech world and such a fast-paced society that even my teenager today cannot imagine the world I grew up in. I am so blessed to have known such peace and happiness. ☺

Jill H. Gunter, Bear Creek, Randolph Electric

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Guidelines:

1. Approximately 200 words.
2. Digital photos must be at least 600kb or 1200 by 800 pixels.
3. No deadline, but only one entry per household per month.
4. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want yours returned.
5. We pay \$50 for each one published in the magazine. We retain reprint rights.
6. Include your name, mailing address and the name of your electric cooperative.
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Testimonial

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NC Tourism



Dine on fresh seafood

North Carolina's Crystal Coast offers visitors a chance to dine on "fresh from the docks" seafood caught the same day through its Carteret Catch program. Restaurants and retailers displaying the Carteret Catch logo on their menus and windows are partners in the program. Culinary connoisseurs can enjoy the freshest ingredients on menu items designated with the Carteret Catch logo, ranging from Scallops A La Florentine to She Crab Bisque while supporting the local fishing industry. Participating restaurants include Amos Mosquito's in Atlantic Beach, Chef's 105, El's Drive-In and Bistro-by-the-Sea in Morehead City, Kathryn's Bistro & Martini Bar in Emerald Isle and Front Street Grill at Stillwater and Blue Moon Bistro in Beaufort.

(800) 786-6962

www.crystalcoastnc.org

From innertubes to bike bags

Tierra Ideas, a bag-manufacturing company based in Raleigh, makes shoulder bags and purses from recycled inner tubes and automobile seat belts. All recycled materials are washed with bio-degradable, non-phosphate detergents. The Piedmont Messenger Bag is a padded bag of 14 by 12 inches and three inches wide, and includes a waist strap for the cyclist. It sells for \$140. The Sandhills bike seat bag is four by five inches. It can be used to store a spare inner tube and rim tool under the bike seat (or other objects as the owner wishes) and sells for \$40. Both are sold online and at select stores, include Flythe Cyclery in Raleigh and Bicycle Sport in Charlotte. Both items are made of recycled bicycle inner tubes collected from N.C. bike stores.

(919) 880-1737

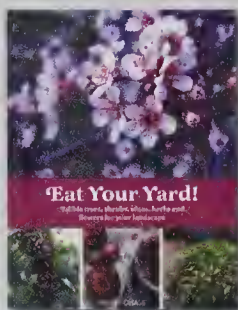
www.tierraideas.com

on the bookshelf

Eat Your Yard

Edible plants provide spring blossoms, colorful fruit and flowers, lush greenery, fall foliage, and beautiful structure, but they also offer fruits, nuts, and seeds that you can eat, cook with, and preserve. "Eat Your Yard" includes ideas for creating the landscape as well as an overview and tips on canning, pickling, dehydrating, freezing, fermenting and juicing. Author Nan K. Chase, who writes about architecture and landscape design, lives in Asheville. "Eat Your Yard: Edible Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Herbs And Flowers For Your Landscape" is published by Gibbs Smith in Layton, Utah. Softcover, 160 pages, \$19.99.

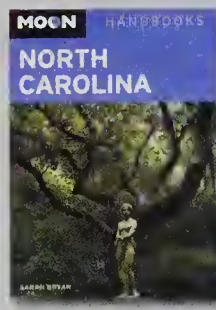
(800) 835.4993

www.gibbs-smith.com

Moon North Carolina

Using her background in regional folklore, author and oral historian Sarah Bryan provides specific trip itineraries and offers her perspective on North Carolina. For example, the North Carolina native's trips include "Folklife in North Carolina" and "North Carolina Oddities." "Moon North Carolina" ranges from beach-combing and bird-watching on the Outer Banks to exploring Appalachian culture along the Blue Ridge Parkway. From hiking to the "balds" to sampling southern cooking in Chapel Hill, the book gives travelers information they need to create a more personal and memorable experience. Moon Travel Guides are published by Avalon Travel Group in Berkeley, Calif. Softcover, 340 pages, \$18.95.

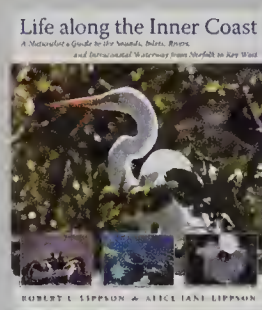
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www.moon.com

Life along the inner coast

Marine scientists Robert and Alice Jane Lippson have traveled the inner coast—the rivers, backwaters, sounds, bays, lagoons, and inlets stretching from the Chesapeake Bay to the Florida Keys—aboard their trawler, Odyssey. "Life along the Inner Coast" is their new guidebook to the plants, animals, and habitats found in these biologically diverse waterways. The book interprets habitats ranging from wooded wetlands, broad marshes, and sandy beaches, to piers and pilings and vast shallow waters rich in populations of marine creatures. "Life along the inner coast: A Naturalist's Guide to the Sounds, Inlets, Rivers, and Intracoastal Waterway from Norfolk to Key West" describes more than 800 species that are beautifully illustrated with ink drawings and photographs and organized by habitat type and geographic region. Hardcover, 472 pages, \$35.

(800) 848-6224

www.uncpress.unc.edu



“Sinner’s Prayer”

Singer Martha Bassett’s latest CD features sultry and seductive original Americana music that harkens back to the warm country sounds of the 1970s. Titles from the CD’s ten tracks include “Moonshine and Starlight,” “Know My Name,” “Take Me in Your Arms,” “Kippy Dooley,” “Midnight Daydream,” “Cool and Easy” and the title track of the same name. It was recorded at Treehouse Mobile Studio and Ovation Sound, both in Winston-Salem. Singer Bassett lives in Greensboro. “Sinner’s Prayer” sells for \$14.

(336) 508-0001
www.mathabassett.com

Rain Song

Nicole Michelin avoids airplanes, motorcycles, and most of all, Japan, where her parents once were missionaries. Something happened in Japan. Something that sent Nicole and her father back to America alone. Something of which Nicole knows only bits and pieces. But she is content with life in Mount Olive, with her quirky relatives, tank of lively fish, and plenty of homemade pineapple chutney. Through her online column for the Pretty Fishy Web site, Nicole meets Harrison Michaels, who, much to her dismay, lives in Japan. She attempts to avoid him, but his e-mails tug at her heart. Then Harrison reveals that he knew her as a child in Japan. In fact, he knows more about her childhood than she does! Will Nicole face her fears to discover her past and take a chance on love? The novel is written by Alice J. Wisler, an author and public speaker who lives in Durham. Softcover, 304 pages, \$13.99. Published by Bethany House in Ada, Minn.



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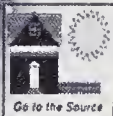
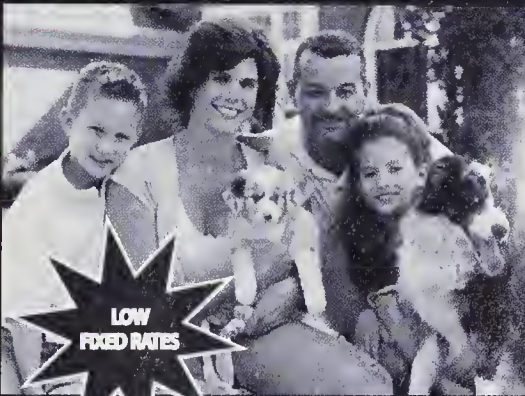
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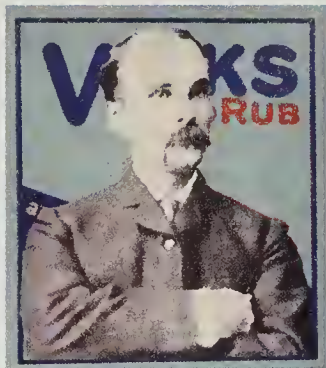
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Getting To Know...



Lunsford Richardson

Born: In 1854 on a farm near Selma

Known for: Enterprising pharmacist who invented Vicks VapoRub

Accomplishments: The youngest of five children, Lunsford Richardson experienced the dreadful effects of the Civil War firsthand. He dreamed of one day establishing a big business that would help the state prosper again. After graduating with honors from Davidson College, he worked as a school principal but then fatefully switched careers. Using his savings, he bought a drugstore in Selma and began

concocting home remedies, then sold the store and bought a drugstore in Greensboro. His children inspired him to create Vicks VapoRub, after they came down with colds and he felt he could improve upon the traditional treatment of the day. He eventually came up with a medicine that combined menthol, camphor and oil of eucalyptus in a petroleum salve that made breathing easier. He named it Vicks because he had a brother-in-law with that name, and Richardson thought it was easy to remember. Lunsford was active in church activities and was particularly interested in the welfare of African-Americans. After he died in 1919, a missionary school, a World War II Liberty ship and a local hospital for blacks were named in his memory.

Little-known fact: In 1905, Richardson convinced the postal service to allow him to mass-mail his advertising circulars to "Boxholder," rather than individuals. Thus, because this was the first such mailing, Richardson is also known as the "Father of Junk Mail."



Picture this!

Did you know North Carolina was the first state in the nation to establish a state museum of art? The museum first opened in 1956 in a renovated state office building in Raleigh. Today, the North Carolina Museum of Art houses its own restaurant and includes a 500-seat outdoor theater, with additional lawn seating. It hosts outdoor films and concerts, and a pretty greenway trail winds around sculptures in its 164-acre park.

New gallery celebration

The museum's main facility has been closed for construction of a new building with day-lit galleries and outdoor gardens. It re-opens with a special celebration weekend this month, on Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25. Festivities include fireworks, craft demonstrations and premiere dance and musical performances. All events are free. For a schedule, call (919) 839-6262 or visit www.ncartmuseum.org.

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a guide to NC for teachers and students

When the Parkway Came

"When the Parkway Came" tells how the building of the Blue Ridge Parkway affected one family during The Great Depression—including 8-year-old Jess and his sister Maggie—whose farm lay in its path. The book, for ages 7 and up, helps young readers understand how the most visited site in our national park system came to be built, the differing views of people affected by it, and the tradeoffs necessary along the way. Color photographs capture the enduring beauty of the Parkway, while historical illustrations help

readers appreciate the vision and hard work that brought it into being.

Written by Anne Mitchell Whisnant and David E. Whisnant and published by Primary Source Publishers in Chapel Hill. Hardcover, 57 pages, \$19.95. To order, call (800) 222-9796 or visit www.blairpub.com

Editor's note: This year marks the 75th anniversary for the Blue Ridge Parkway! Visit Blue Ridge Parkway 75's Web site to see how you can get involved. www.blueridgeparkway75.org



Photos courtesy of NC Museum of History

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Women Are Raving That It Really Works

But it's not only Rachel who believes in the magic of **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler**. In all of the years of market testing, we've never had a product test so high. But seeing is believing! Once the women who participated in the test saw how amazing they looked they didn't want to give back their trial supply.

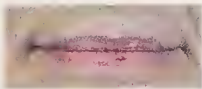


"It was amazing! The lines above my lips disappeared, as did my brow lines and crows feet! I feel 10 years younger and I'm going out dancing tonight!"

—Nikki P., Age 55



LIPS BEFORE INSTANT WRINKLE FILLER



LIPS AFTER INSTANT WRINKLE FILLER

Actual Unretouched Photos

Actual Same Day Results – Unretouched Photos

Developed by a Surgeon

Endorsed by one of the country's top plastic surgeons, and previously available only through plastic surgeon's offices, **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler** is available for the very first time in small quantities to the public. Finally, the same smoothing power that makes women look younger in front of the camera can do the same for you in your own bathroom mirror!

Immediately Visible Results

You don't need to wait long to look younger. The silicone micro beads in **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler** trigger an immediate and significant optical wrinkle elimination. The super-hydrating ingredient, Hyaluronic Acid, rapidly plumps up lines from the inside. Just smooth the filler into your laugh lines, crow's feet or even depressed scars for instant results. The results look amazing, even in close-up situations.

Additionally, the breakthrough ingredients in **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler** help reverse the signs of premature aging of the skin, while helping to minimize the damaging effects of stress and the environment.

It's a Safe and Painless Alternative to Treatments

Even though Los Angeles has been called "The Face-Lift Capital of the World," there are still some celebrities who'd rather avoid the pain and complication of cosmetic surgery. Even though they can well afford it, they'd rather skip the uncomfortable side effects that that come along with treatments.



"Can you guess how old I am? Wrong. You're off by years."

Years Disappear in Minutes

With a simple topical application of **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler**, you can see instant results in the fight against unsightly deep lines and wrinkles. What's more, **Hydroxatone®** can be applied to all areas of the face, neck, and body—not just to "crow's feet" around the eyes.

The **Hydroxatone®** anti-aging system was developed in conjunction with a top board certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon. He is an internationally recognized expert on plastic surgery, publishing over 20 articles, books and textbook contributions.

"I talk to so many women who would do almost anything to look younger. That is why I recommend Hydroxatone®"



— Dr. Nancy Steely, N.D.
Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine

Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler
First 100 Callers get
30 day RISK FREE Trial

We are so confident in the wrinkle reducing benefits of **Hydroxatone Instant Wrinkle Filler**, that we want to offer you a 30 day Risk Free Trial, so you experience the results first hand. **But this offer is limited to the first 100 callers.** To get your supply of **Hydroxatone Instant Wrinkle Filler**, for only a small shipping & processing fee, you must call today. Our operators are available 24/7 to let you try one of the latest breakthroughs in wrinkle fighting technology. If you are not 100% satisfied, simply return the unused portion for a complete refund (less shipping & processing).



Call 888-711-1845 Today to Get Your Free Trial of Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler

Mention Promotional Code HW100194

April Events



The Canadian acoustic trio The Wailin' Jennys perform at The Fletcher Theater on April 15 in Raleigh. Call (919) 664-8302 or visit www.pinecone.org to learn more.

ONGOING

Arts Councils' Fourth Friday

Fayetteville
(910) 483-5311
www.theartscouncil.org

"New Harmonies" Exhibit

Through April 24, Mount Airy
(336) 334-5325
www.museumonmainstreet.org

"My Own Song"

Musical Revue
Flat Rock Playhouse, Hendersonville
(828) 693-9708

Artist Billy Farmer

April 9–May 8, Wake Forest
(919) 570-0765
www.sunflowerstudiowf.com

"Early Inhabitants of the Western Piedmont"

Through May 1, Kings Mountain
(704) 739-1019

Young at Art

April 14–May 15, West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787
www.ashecountyarts.org

"Metamorphosis: Metal and Mud"

Through May 22, Hillsborough
(919) 732-5001
www.hillsboroughgallery.com

First Lady & President Polk Exhibition

Through June 11, Grover
(704) 937-2940
www.theinnofthepatriots.com

Photos of the Rural South

Through June 27, Winston Salem
(336) 758-5150
www.renoldahouse.org

Tell Me A Story

Famous dolls from children's literature
Through June 30, High Point
(336) 885-3655
www.dollandminiaturemuseum.org

Come Sit A Spell: Views of The Southern Garden

Artistic seating displays
Through August 22, Belmont
(704) 825-4490
www.dsb.org

From Lights to Flight: United States Coast Guard Art Collection

Through October 18
Elizabeth City
(252) 335-1453
www.museumofthealbemarle.com

1 | THURS.

Business Expo

Greenville
(252) 329-4200

3 | SAT

Inspirational Rodeo

Fayetteville
(910) 438-4100
www.crowncoliseum.com

Bass Fishing Tournament

Hayesville
(828) 835-4038
www.cherokeeconomychamber.com

Easter Egg Hunt

Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

"Jimmy Doziers Plow Day"

Antique cars, farm equipment,
bluegrass & gospel music,
demos, food
Rocky Mount
(252) 813-6957

Gun and Knife Show

April 3–4, Fayetteville
(910) 438-4100
www.crowncoliseum.com

Trout Derby

April 3–4, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-4636
www.blowingrock.com

Festival of Flowers

April 3–May 16, Asheville
(828) 225-6798
www.biltmore.com

4 | SUN.

Easter Sunrise Service

Chimney Rock Park
(828) 245-1492
www.chimneyrockpark.com

8 | THURS.

Lecture: "18th Century Architecture in North Carolina"

Raleigh
(919) 833-3431
www.joellane.org

Basic Land Management Skills

April 9–10, Salisbury
(828) 884-5713
www.cradleofforestry.org

9 | FRI.

Pig Cookin Contest

April 9–10, Newport
(252) 241-3488

Arts in April: Days of Clay

April 9–10, Rutherfordton
(828) 245-1492
www.rcvag.com

10 | SAT.

Springfest 2010

New Bern
(252) 617-2158
www.newbernfarmersmarket.com

International Festival

Greenville
(252) 329-4200

PirateFest

Greenville
(252) 329-4200
www.piratefestnc.com

13 | TUES.

Junior Museum Explorers

Elizabeth City
(252) 335-4047
www.museumofthealbemarle.com

Shad Festival

April 13–18, Grifton
(252) 329-4200

14 | WED.

Special Olympics & Field Spring Games

Greenville
(252) 329-4200

Spring Homeschool Day

Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

15 | THURS.

Carolina Gospel Association
Rutherfordton
(828) 245-1492
www.carolinagospel.com

Chanticleer
Classical music singers
Greenville
(252) 329-4200

The Wailin' Jennys
Raleigh
(919) 664-8302
www.pinecone.org

"The Wild Party"
Musical
April 15–20, Greenville
(252) 329-4200

Wine Festival
April 15–18, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-4636
www.blowingrock.com

"Whiskey Flats, How the West was Fun!"
April 15–25, New Bern
(252) 638-1333

16 | FRI.

Chairman of the Board & Band of Oz concerts
Fayetteville
(910) 438-4100
www.crowncoliseum.com

"Nobody's Perfect"
Musical
Greenville
(252) 329-4200

Arts in April: Art & Nature
April 16–17, Rutherfordton
(828) 245-1492
www.rcvag.com

Ghost Hunt
April 16–17, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

In-Water Boat Show
Oriental
(252) 249-0228
www.orientalboatshow.com

17 | SAT

Classic Cars & Antiques
Selma
(800) 441-7829
www.visitselma.org

Hickory Hops
Outdoor beer festival
Hickory
(828) 632-0106
www.hickoryhops.com

Civil War Soldier For A Day
Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

Spring Herb & Plant Festival
Concord
(704) 920-3315

Spring Fling
Kings Mountain
(704) 739-1019
www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Cruise-In
Vintage cars
Lenoir
(828) 728-3811
www.lenoircruisers.com

Dyster Roast
Gold Hill
(704) 279-7897
www.historicgoldhill.com

Spring Fest
West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787
www.ashecountyarts.org

Homes Tour & Art Show
Emerald Isle
(252) 393-6500
http://carteret.cpclub.org

Broadway Our Way Festival
Broadway
(919) 258-3163
www.broadwaync.com

40th Anniversary Earth Day
Chimney Rock Park
(828) 245-1492
www.chimneyrockpark.com

Spring Garden Tour
April 17–18, Chapel Hill
(919) 962-0522
www.chapelhillgardentour.net

18 | SUN.

"Simon Says" Guided Bird Walk
Chimney Rock Park
(828) 245-1492
www.chimneyrockpark.com

20 | TUES.

History Tales: Make It, Take It
Elizabeth City
(252) 331-4047
www.museumofthealbemarle.com

21 | WED.

Wine & Food Weekend
April 21–25, Beaufort
(252) 728-5225
www.beaufortwineandfood.com

22 | THURS.

Casting Crowns Concert
Fayetteville
(910) 438-4100
www.crowncoliseum.com

Ladies Night Out
Wine tastings, pampering
specials, live music
Hillsborough
(919) 732-2128
www.shophillsboroughnc.com

Billy Taylor Jazz Festival
April 22–23, Greenville
(252) 329-4200

23 | FRI.

Arts in April: Art & Architecture
April 23–24, Rutherfordton
(828) 245-1492
www.rcvag.com

Native Landscaping & Water Management
April 23–24, Asheboro
(828) 884-5713
www.cradleofforestry.com

Dogwood Festival
April 23–24, Mebane
(919) 304-6147
www.themebanedorwoodfestival.com

Antiques Festival
April 23–24, Liberty
(336) 622-3040
www.libertyantiquesfestival.com

Southern Women's Show
April 23–25, Raleigh
(800) 849-0248
www.southernwomensshow.com

Dogwood Festival
April 23–25, Farmville
(252) 329-4200

24 | SAT

Johnson Farm Festival
Hendersonville
(828) 891-6585
www.historicjohnsonfarm.org

Bark in the Park
Chimney Rock Park
(828) 245-1492
www.chimneyrockpark.com

Spring Fling at RayLen
Mocksville
(336) 998-3100
www.raylenvineyards.com

Discover Latta Plantation
Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

Native Plant Festival
Ocean
(252) 393-8185
www.ncccoast.org

Preservation Warrenton Homes Tour
Warrenton
(252) 257-4425
www.preservatinwarrenton.com

25 | SUN.

Blue Ridge Chamber Players
West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787
www.ashecountyarts.org
Camden County Day
Elizabeth City
(252) 331-4047
www.museumofthealbemarle.com

27 | TUES

Glenn Davis Memorial Concert
Asheboro
(336) 241-2497

29 | THURS.

MerleFest
April 29–30, May 1–2, Wilkesboro
(800) 343-7857
www.merlefest.org

30 | FRI.

Carrie Underwood
Fayetteville
(910) 438-4100
www.crowncoliseum.com

Tweetsie Railroad Opens
Blowing Rock
(828) 295-4636
www.blowingrock.com

Spring Stroll
Lexington
(336) 249-0383
www.uptownlexington.com

Spring Powwow
Dancing, drums
April 30 through May 2, Lumberton
(910) 739-9999
www.lumbeetribe.com

Listing Information

Deadlines:
For June: April 24
For July: May 24

Submit Listings Online:
Visit www.carolinacountry.com and click "See NC" to add your event to the magazine and/or our Web site. Or e-mail events@carolinacountry.com



Miss Fitts



DOUBLED OR NOTHING

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B I U S O W E L Y B B U B S O O

The bigamist loved not

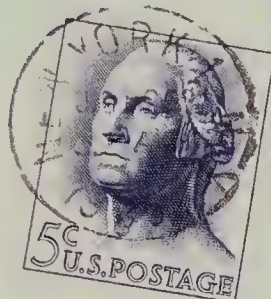
2
x T

8
L

Each letter in this multiplication problem stands for the digit below it. Double the number above and write your answer on the blanks. Then write the appropriate letters below the digits to find four hidden words.

STICKER SHOCK

The post office is said to be losing money, but bureaucrats are putting a brave new face on it. New "improved" 44-cent stamps with three bears and Mississippi's state flag on them are printed in full color and are twice the size of the old George Washington stamps we used to know. And you don't have to lick them; they're stuck on a protective backing and we're stuck with the extra cost of production.



Old timers who grew up during the (previous) great depression remember when stamps were printed in just one color, but the mail was delivered to their door twice a day.

-Cy Nical

digit DETECTION

A	C	C	E	P	T
9	9	9	9	9	9
8	8	8	8	8	8
7	7	7	7	7	7
6	6	6	6	6	6
5	5	5	5	5	5
4	4	4	4	4	4
3	3	3	3	3	3
2	2	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0

$$(AC)^2 = CEPT$$

Five consecutive digits have been rearranged to form the equation above.

The digit represented by C is used twice.

$$A+C = P+T$$

$$C+E = P+P$$

$$A+P = C+C$$

$$A+A = C+T$$

Will you accept the challenge to solve these equations?

UNSCRAMBLIT

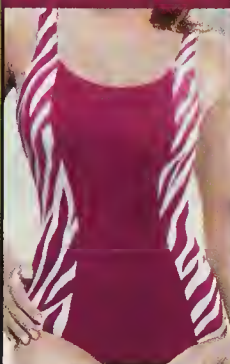
A penny-poker player
expects some _____
saumrc
for the _____.
nceeb1
-The Pundit

Use the capital letters in the key clue below to fill in the blanks above.

"A B C E G H N O R T" means
unscramble

ROYAL BLUE

BURGUNDY



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	#182			Trim Suit	\$ 9.97	\$
...And Matching Wrap (please circle size)						
	#228		S, M, L	Wrap	\$ 7.97	\$
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Zesty zinnias

Zinnias are among the easiest flowers to grow from seed, and they provide a quick reward. Plant them in full sun in fertile, well-drained soil and wait for a riot of color. Sow zinnia seeds in the ground after the last frost and after the ground has warmed, or transplant as seedlings. Several zinnia varieties were among the big winners in the 2010 All-America Selections annual trials. These varieties were deemed resistant to leaf spot and mildew, menaces that can spoil a garden party. The double-flowered 'Double Zahara Cherry' (deep pink color) and 'Double Zahara Fire' (blaze orange) bloom 8–10 weeks after sowing, reach about 12–14 inches tall, and spread about 12 inches. These have 2½-inch flowers, as does 'Zahara Starlight Rose', another top-rated zinnia. 'Starlight Rose' is the first bi-color pink-and-white variety. To see photos of these and winners from years past, visit www.all-americaelections.org. For sources of seed, visit www.all-americaelections.org/Seed_Source.asp.

Turfgrass tips

- ▶ Identifying turfgrass disease is the first step in finding a treatment. For a handy, interactive diagnostic guide, visit www.turfinfo.ncsu.edu/diseaseID/default.aspx.
- ▶ To identify and deal with turfgrass weeds, you first need to find out whether the weed is a broadleaf, rush, sedge or grass. For a comprehensive identification and diagnostics guide, visit www.turfinfo.ncsu.edu/turfid/Interactive.
- ▶ Before grass greens up in spring, mow slightly lower than normal if there are dead grass stems and other debris. But be careful not to scalp your lawn. After the first time, remove no more than one-third of the stems in a single mowing. This will keep lawns less susceptible to drought, heat, pests and disease. If the lawn has become overgrown, mow over a period of several days to return it to the desired height.

Hort Shorts


- ▶ Edamame is a soybean grown for kitchen cuisine—the pods are steamed, then shelled for their nutty-tasting seeds. They can be eaten as a snack or added to dishes. Edamame is similar to other bush beans in its needs and growth habit. Wait to sow in spring until soils have warmed to about 65 degrees F. Edamame is ready to harvest when the seeds are plump but before pods start to yellow. 'Midori Giant', 'Mojo Green' and 'Sunrise' are some varieties well suited to North Carolina.
- ▶ The rugosa rose (*Rosa rugosa*) is a large, easy-care shrub rose. Rugosas are sometimes called beach roses, an apt nickname since they are tough enough to withstand drought and salt spray. Beach roses tolerate poor soils and are winter-hardy throughout North Carolina. Rugosas are thorny, so they are useful as protective screens.



This disease-resistant zinnia variety won big in the 2010 All-America Selections annual trials—'Double Zahara Fire.'

Tomato lingo

When deciding what tomato varieties to plant in your garden, consider the various growth characteristics:

- ▶ **Indeterminate tomatoes** are the traditional tall, endlessly vining types that require stakes or other supports—these continue growing and producing fruit all season. Determinate tomatoes put out many side shoots (suckers) that some gardeners pinch out to produce a sturdier main stem and larger fruit.
- ▶ **Determinate tomatoes**, called bush types, are stockier and shorter-statured. They mature early and bear all their fruit over a brief period and then stop growing. Determinate varieties are popular with gardeners who have less space and are also favored by canners who want to harvest a large amount all at once. Don't prune these types or you will diminish your harvest.
- ▶ **Semi-determinate tomatoes** have characteristics of both determinate and indeterminate varieties. They bear all season but produce fewer suckers than indeterminate tomatoes and are typically more compact (about 5 feet tall). There are fewer commercial varieties in this category—'Celebrity' is sometimes referred to as semi-determinate. 



Carla Burgess can be reached at ncgardenshare@mindspring.com.

For more gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of www.carolinacountry.com.

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Community Cookbook

Twenty years ago, McIlhenny Company established the Tabasco Community Cookbook Awards to recognize the role these unique books play in chronicling and preserving local culinary traditions. In 2008, Morehead City's entry, *A Little Taste of Heaven Since 1857* won top honors. This one-of-a-kind book shares the recipes, stories, photographs and history of Morehead City and its citizens. The wonderful photos and illustrations only added to the judges unanimous opinion that a book like this is what we yearn for—a true piece of local book-making. Hardcover with internal spiral binding. 360 pages.

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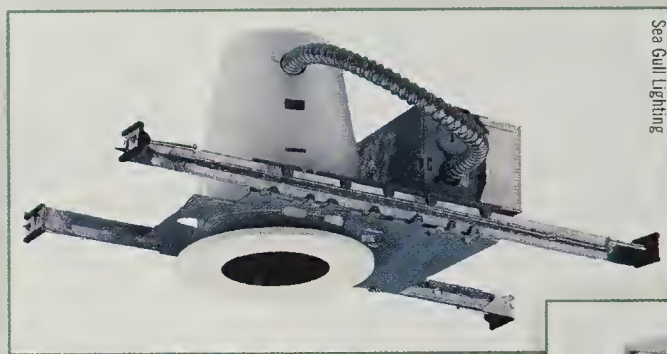
Avoid air leaks with efficient recessed lighting designs

Recessed lights have been popular for decades and remain the lighting fixture of choice for overhead lighting. Efficient options can use 80 percent less electricity than inefficient versions that provide the same amount of light output with practically the same appearance.

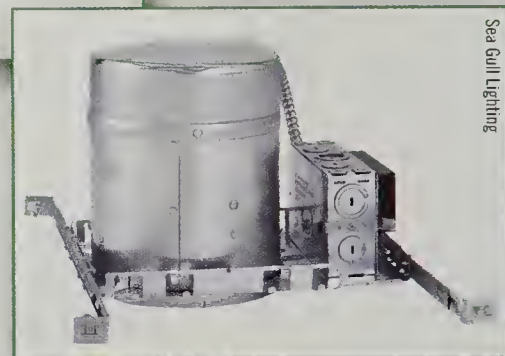
Recessed light fixtures are unique because they penetrate and are mounted in the ceiling of a room. This is not an energy issue when installed in the first-floor ceiling of a two-story house. However, if fixtures are installed in the second-story ceiling or the first floor ceiling of a one-story house, a hole is created between a conditioned living area and the open, unconditioned attic area.

Without an efficient design and proper installation, a recessed lighting fixture allows conditioned air to leak out of the house. This is particularly true during winter when the warmer air inside a home naturally rises to the ceiling. This not only wastes energy, but may create a chilly draft in rooms where cold outdoor air leaks indoors.

There are new energy efficient recessed light fixture designs that meet Energy Star standards. All of these



Above: This Energy Star-qualified fluorescent recessed light fixture includes a built-in bar hanger that adjusts up to 24 inches long.



Right: This recessed light fixture is designed to use an efficient fluorescent bulb, featuring a built-in electronic ballast.

fixtures use fluorescent light sources instead of inefficient incandescent bulbs. This fact alone reduces electricity consumption by 75 percent. The inside surface of the new fixtures is also more reflective than older inefficient versions. Better reflectivity reduces the amount of light trapped and dissipated inside a fixture before ever getting into a room.

For fixtures in ceilings where indoor air leakage seems likely, select a new airtight design with a sealed canister. The sealed airtight recessed fixture canister, when installed properly, forms an airtight seal between the ceiling and the fixture. These types of fixtures are most often used in ceilings beneath an unconditioned attic, but they are also effective for unheated basement ceilings, minimizing drafts between floors.

As a safety note, if you already have recessed lighting fixtures in your home, do not go up into the attic and wrap them with insulation to try to save energy. Wrapping older fixtures with insulation can hold in too much heat, and the excess heat buildup can become an electrical or fire hazard.

If a recessed light fixture will be installed in a ceiling under an insulated attic floor, select an insulation contact-rated (IC) design. These fixtures are designed to touch insulation without overheating the fixture. When installing new non-IC fixtures, the insulation must be kept away from the canister. This insulation void increases heat loss

from the room below even if the installation is airtight.

When installing recessed light fixtures yourself, first determine your lighting goals. To brighten an entire room, downlighting can be quite effective. In a normal-height ceiling, a four-foot spacing of recessed light fixtures provides an even lighting pattern at floor level. Typical six-inch-diameter fluorescent fixed vertical fixtures work well for downlighting. If you'd like to dim some of the lights, install a second circuit and dimmer switch with incandescent bulbs in those fixtures.

For task lighting, a single fixed vertical fixture directly over the work area seems effective. Wall wash recessed lighting can be used to accent a painting or other wall hangings. An eyeball recessed light is best for this application because the light path can be adjusted. For a sloped cathedral ceiling, install an angular recessed fixture—preferably an IC model since it will be in contact with ceiling insulation.

It's not difficult to install recessed light fixtures by yourself. For an attractive, efficient installation, cut the mounting holes the exact size recommended by the manufacturer. This makes it much easier to create a good seal. Before drilling and cutting holes, make sure your fixture layout clears all the floor joists. 🛠️

James Dulley is an engineer and syndicated columnist for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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Cute Egg Chicks

- 12 hard-cooked eggs
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped onion
- ½ teaspoon curry powder
- ½ teaspoon prepared mustard
- ⅛ teaspoon pepper
- 3 pimiento-stuffed olives
- 1 small sweet red pepper

Cut a thin slice from the bottom of each egg so it sits flat. Cut a zigzag pattern a third down from the top of each egg. Carefully remove yolks and place in a small bowl; mash with a fork. Add the mayonnaise, Parmesan cheese, onion, curry, mustard and pepper; stir until well blended. Spoon yolk mixture into the egg white bottoms; replace tops.

Cut olives into slices for eyes. Cut 12 small triangles from red pepper for beaks. Gently press the eyes and beaks into egg yolk filling. Chill until serving.

Yield: 1 dozen

Peeps Sunflower Cake

- 1 package (18¼ ounces) yellow cake mix
- 2 cans (16 ounces each) chocolate frosting
- 19 yellow chick Peeps candies
- 1½ cups semisweet chocolate chips

Prepare and bake cake mix according to package directions, using two greased and waxed paper lined 9-inch round baking pans. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely; carefully remove waxed paper.

Level tops of cakes. Spread frosting between layers and over the top and sides of cake.

Without separating Peeps and curving slightly to fit, arrange chicks around edge of cake for sunflower petals. For sunflower seeds, arrange chocolate chips in center of cake.

Yield: 12 servings



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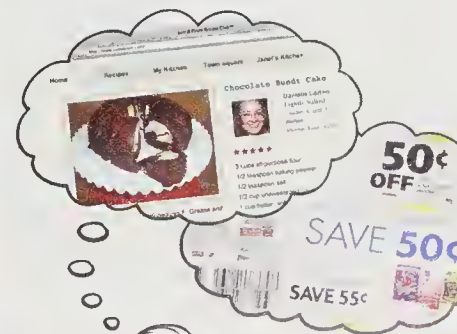
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Cinnamon Biscuit Peach Cobbler

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon plus ⅓ cup packed brown sugar, divided
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- 6 tablespoons cold butter, cubed
- ½ cup 2% milk
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- ¾ cup walnuts
- ¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Filling

- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- ¾ teaspoon grated lemon peel
- 1 cup water
- 9 cups sliced peeled peaches

In a small bowl, combine the flour, 1 tablespoon brown sugar, baking powder, salt and baking soda; cut in cold butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in milk just until blended. Transfer to a floured surface; knead 10–12 times. Pat into a 12-inch square. Brush with melted butter. Combine the walnuts, cinnamon and remaining brown sugar; sprinkle over dough to within a half-inch of edge. Roll up jelly-roll style. Seal dough; set aside.

For filling, in a large saucepan, combine the brown sugar, cornstarch and lemon peel. Gradually stir in water until blended. Add peaches. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened and bubbly. Transfer to a greased 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Cut biscuit dough into twelve 1-inch slices; arrange biscuits over filling. Bake, uncovered, at 400 degrees for 20–25 minutes or until golden brown.

Yield: 12 servings

Asparagus Appetizer Roll-ups

- 12 slices of white bread, crusts removed
- 1 container (8 ounces) spreadable cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped green onions
- 8 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
- 24 fresh asparagus spears, trimmed
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

Flatten bread with a rolling pin. In a small bowl, combine the cream cheese, onions and bacon. Spread mixture over bread slices. Cut asparagus to fit bread; place two spears on each bread slice. Roll up bread and place, seam side down, on a greased baking sheet. Brush with butter; sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Bake at 400 degrees for 10–12 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve immediately.

Yield: 1 dozen



Savory Stuffed Pork Chops

- 8 boneless pork loin chops (1-inch thick and 8 ounces each)
- 1 small onion, chopped
- ½ cup butter, cubed
- 5 cups fresh baby spinach
- 1 package (6 ounce) sage stuffing mix
- 1½ cups (12 ounces) sour cream
- ½ teaspoon rubbed sage
- ½ teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning

Using a sharp knife, cut a pocket in each pork chop. In a large skillet, sauté onion in butter until tender. Add spinach, cook until wilted. Stir in the stuffing mix, sour cream and sage.

Fill each chop with about ⅓ cup stuffing mixture; secure with toothpicks if necessary. Place on a greased 15-by-10-by-1-inch baking pan. Sprinkle with lemon-pepper. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 35–40 minutes or until a meat thermometer reads 160 degrees. Discard toothpicks.



From Your Kitchen

Krispy Kreme Bread Pudding

- 8–9 Krispy Kreme doughnuts broken up into small pieces
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 large can fruit cocktail (drained)
- 1 stick margarine
- ½ box confectioners' sugar

Put broken up pieces of doughnuts in bottom of dish. Pour condensed milk over top and then fruit cocktail. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. In a small pot melt margarine and stir in sugar; drizzle this on warm pudding!

Note: The margarine/confectionery sugar quantity may be more than you need. To cut down on the richness, you may use your own cake glaze recipe or just use a half-stick margarine instead of a full one, and add sugar a little at a time until it is the right consistency to drizzle.

Nancy Freeman of Lexington will receive \$25 for submitting this recipe.

Send Us Your Recipes

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Above, Floyd Lowe, on the left, chats with a customer. Below is the watch repair desk.

Keeping time for 64 years


If your watch needed repair, you went to Lowe's. Now you can't go there anymore.

Text and photos by Gerald Yokely

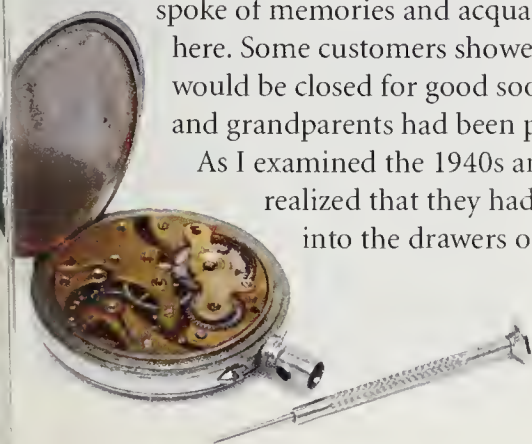
When Floyd Lowe locked the front door to his family's business for the last time on Jan. 15 this year, a Surry County tradition passed into history. Located in the heart of Pilot Mountain, Lowe's Jewelry Shop had operated at the same location since 1946. Soon after WW II, James Howard Lowe went into business repairing watches here. Now, watch repair has all but disappeared from modern life.

In 1985, Mr. Lowe's son Junior took over and ran the business until his death in February 2009. For the last several months, Junior's younger brother Floyd had opened the shop daily, gradually clearing jewelry from the drawers and shelves and selling the remaining inventory. Being retired from public work himself, Floyd said he had no interest in maintaining the shop, which had been in his family for 64 years.

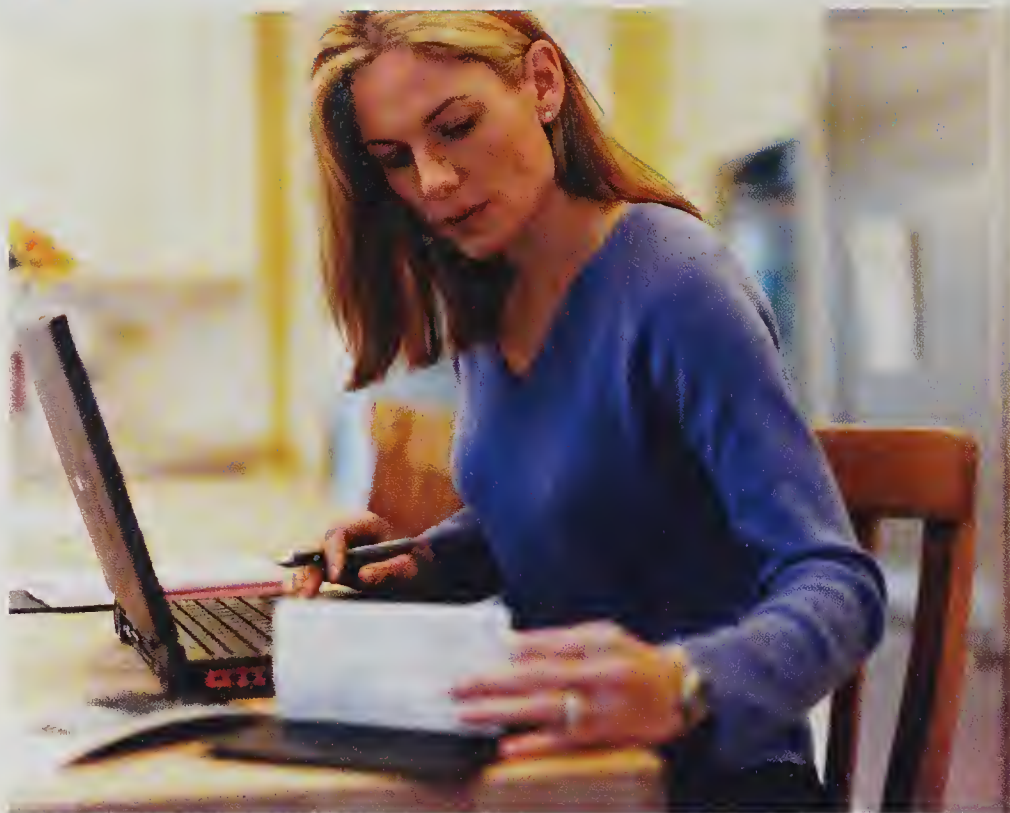
On a quiet weekday morning in early January, a few customers drifted in and out of the weathered glass door and proceeded to the long narrow service window at the back. While they sipped coffee with Floyd and his wife, Faye, loyal patrons spoke of memories and acquaintances from the years of doing business here. Some customers showed surprise upon learning that the door would be closed for good soon. Others talked of how their parents and grandparents had been patrons of the Lowes for years.

As I examined the 1940s and 1950s watch repair instruments, I realized that they had slipped from careful hands and stored into the drawers of history. 

Gerald Yokely is a freelance writer/photographer living in Tobaccoville. His work has appeared in magazines and shows throughout North Carolina.



Look at past spending when creating household budget



Who among us is not trying to pare down the household budget these days? But it can be tough to turn good intentions into dollars saved, and sometimes a well-meaning budget falls flat. Here are a few steps you can take toward creating a successful household budget:

1. Set goals.

First things first: What are you hoping to accomplish by trimming your expenses? Think both short-term and long-term. Then write down specific goals, such as “put \$300 a month into the family emergency savings fund” or “pay an additional \$200 a month on my credit card balance.” The more concrete your goals, the greater your chances of success.

2. Find out where your money is going.

Most people aren’t completely honest with themselves about how much money they’re already spending—in fact, many underestimate these figures by 20 percent or more, says Laura Schumann, a financial advisor with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Before any plan you design will work, you need to get a clear picture of your current expenditures.

Consider using a debit card, instead of a credit card, for all purchases, so the money comes directly out of your checking account—and has finite limits.



Here’s how: Collect the past year’s worth of statements for all your bank and credit card accounts. Group your expenses into categories and list every expenditure. Divide your total annual expenses by 12. This is your average monthly outflow of dollars. Divide the category totals by 12, too, to see how costs break down each month. (Your bank and credit card companies may allow you to download these figures online—check their Web sites for details.)

3. Carve out the dollars.


Now, look at your expenses from the past year. It’s time for some reflection and decision-making. What spending

habits would need to change in order to meet your goals? For example, if you cut out two restaurant visits per month, how much extra could go into your 401(k)? You don’t need to judge your past purchases—just decide which choices you can make, and live with.

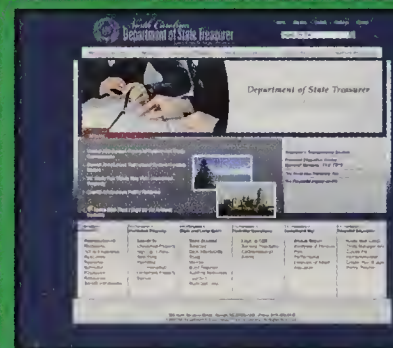
4. Create accountability.

Finally, you need a system that discourages cheating. What happens if you go over budget and your new goals get shortchanged? Do credit card balances just go higher? Don’t let that happen. Consider using a debit card, instead of a credit card, for all purchases, so the money comes directly out of your checking account—and has finite limits.

Another way to keep your priorities straight: Set up automatic, regular payments to savings accounts and retirement accounts—and even credit card accounts, if you set a payment goal each month. Then keep the remainder of your income in one or more checking accounts from which you can pay other expenses.

After three months, then six, tally your average expenditures again. How are you doing? Make some additional adjustments if you need to, and keep working toward your goals. 

—Lisa Hughes-Daniel, NRECA



North Carolina Resource

North Carolina Department of State Treasurer’s Web site has information to help improve your finances, including a free household expense budget sheet you can download. Visit the Web site www.nctreasurer.com and type Household Budget in the “search” box.



Trains can get you there and scenically, too

By Chelsey Simpson

one-way cost would be about \$550 for the 43-hour journey. If you decided to drive the same route, you would have to figure in gas prices and hotel stays, the view might not be as scenic, and you would have to do the driving.

Amtrak charges by the room for sleeper cars, not by the person, a good deal for couples or families. And children through the age of 15 receive half-price fare.

Scenic fun

Many Amtrak routes chart a picturesque course through small towns and wild spaces of America. For example, Amtrak's California Zephyr passes through two mountain ranges and the Painted Desert; the Adirondack and the Vermonter are prime leaf-peeper routes in the fall; and the Empire Builder passes through Glacier National Park.

If you're taking a longer trip, research public transportation options in your destination city or make plans to rent a car. Amtrak recommends Washington, D.C., New York City, Orlando, Seattle, Boston, Chicago, Portland and San Diego as the cities with the most attractions easily accessed by foot.

Or instead of one big destination, chart a path with several stops. Start in Chicago and stop in Memphis, Tenn., for barbeque and Elvis; head on to Jackson, Miss., for culture and civil rights history; then stay a few days in New Orleans before heading back.

Resources

Amtrak.com and TrainTraveling.com are both great resources. Amtrak offers an interactive route atlas and virtual tours of each sleeping-cabin option. Or call (800) 872-7245.

TrainTraveling.com has information about Amtrak, excursion trains and regional commuter trains. You can browse routes by region or state. 🌐

Chelsey Simpson is managing editor of Oklahoma Living, the monthly publication of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Trip considerations

Time

When you weigh the duration of a train journey against a comparable flight, make sure you consider how early you will have to arrive at the airport, as well as its location. It isn't necessary to arrive more than 30 minutes early for Amtrak service in most situations. Airports are usually on the outskirts of cities, but train stations are often downtown.

Amtrak is an especially good alternative for flights with an in-air time of one hour or less, which means train travel might be a real time-saver if you plan to visit multiple cities within a region. For example, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., are all served by frequent rail service, and trips between each city take only two to four hours.

Money

The real bargain aspect of rail travel is that long-haul trips can serve as your transportation, entertainment and lodging all in one. For example, you could buy two tickets with a Superliner Roomette (sleeping car for two) on the Southwest Chief from Chicago to Los Angeles. If you booked several months out for a trip in mid-July, the

Passenger trains are the stuff of folk songs and bandit tales; but cars and planes are the way we get around. When it comes to vacation planning, however, trains shouldn't be overlooked. They can be a cheaper, more comfortable, faster and less-stressful way to get from point A to point B, but most train enthusiasts will tell you it's the journey in between that really matters.

Why Trains?

Amtrak, the nation's primary passenger-rail provider, operates 21,000 route miles in 46 states. "There are destinations that you can get to faster on a train, by the time you wait at the airport, get your luggage and make your way into the city," says Michael Gleason, who owns TrainTraveling.com.

For many riders, reaching one of Amtrak's 500 destinations is the main goal, while others go for the scenery. When it comes to sightseeing, there are also a number of non-Amtrak excursion trains, such as the Pikes Peak Cog Railway and the Branson Scenic Railway.

NASCAR®

Hall of Fame to open in Charlotte


A new NASCAR Hall of Fame will open May 11, in uptown Charlotte, honoring the history of NASCAR racing. The 150,000-square-foot, interactive attraction is designed to educate and entertain race fans and non-fans alike.

The high-tech venue includes a 275-person state-of-the-art theater, Hall of Honor, Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant, NASCAR Hall of Fame Gear Shop and NASCAR Media Group-operated broadcast studio. Connected to the Charlotte Convention Center, the five-acre site also encompasses a privately developed 19-story office tower and 102,000-square-foot expansion to the convention center.

The Hall, located on Martin Luther King Blvd, includes more than 40,000 square-feet of interactive exhibits and artifacts. One of the more unique contributions for display is racecar legend Junior Johnson's moonshine still. Johnson, almost as famous for running moonshine as for racing, built the authentic still, which is identical to stills he and his family used in years past. Constructed of wood, metal and copper, it features a cooker, two boilers, a dry barrel, a flake stand, condenser and strainer. It was the decades of running moonshine that led to Johnson's career as a race-car driver, along with many other famous names of the sport.

"As we prepare the artifacts for display, some present unexpected challenges," says historian Buz McKim, who has been uncovering hidden treasures of the sport for display. "That was the case last week with the still. I called Junior to ask how to connect a couple of the parts of the still, and he just said he would drive down and help out. Sure enough, two hours later, Junior arrives with wrenches in hand and starts installing the still himself and offering direction to our exhibit fabrication team."

The artifact will be on display in the Pre-NASCAR Theater, which tells the story of what led to the formation of NASCAR. It also highlights the history of the automobile before the 1948 inception of NASCAR. The Theater is on the fourth floor of the facility in Heritage Speedway, the artifact-rich area of the venue.

The Hall plans to hold community events, seminars and racecar driver appearances. It will be open seven days a week, and closed on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Base hours are 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, but hours are subject to change a bit so check before going. Tickets are on sale now, and cost \$19.95 for adults, \$17.95 for seniors and military, and \$12.95 for children 5–12. Admission is free for children younger than 5. Group discounts, facility rentals and sponsorships also are available by calling (704) 654-4400 or (877) 231-2010. Web site: www.nascarhall.com. 

—Karen Olson House



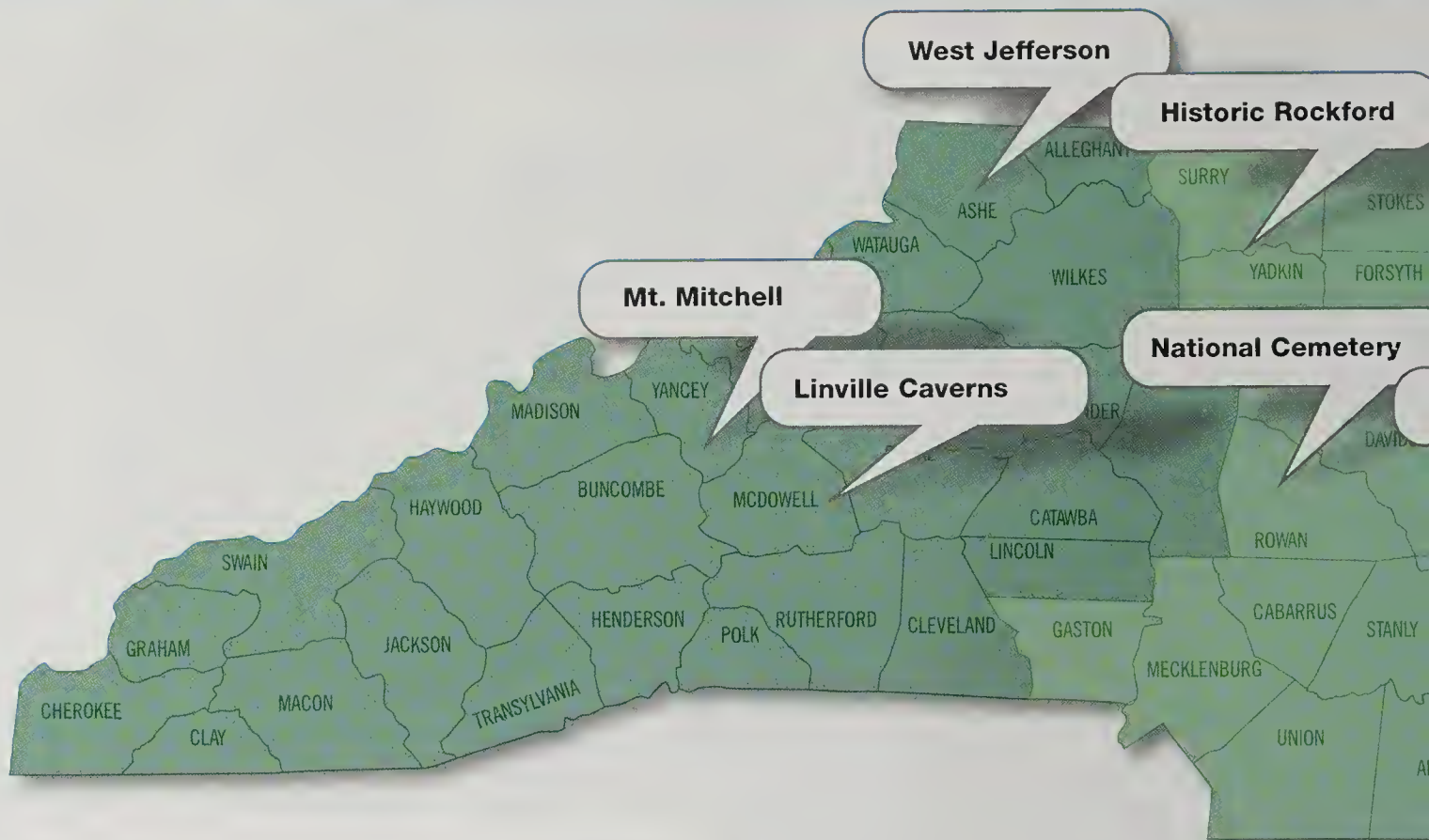
Artist renderings show The Great Hall (top) and "Modern Era" Platform (bottom). Racecar legend Junior Johnson (middle) stands next to moonshine still equipment that he donated for display. Credit: NASCAR Hall of Fame



2010 Touchstone Energy
Travel Guide



15 Carolina Country Adventures Ahead



2010 Touchstone Energy Travel Guide

From one end to the other, North Carolina is about as diverse as any state in the nation. We've got hard gemstones in the west, soft crabs on the coast and red clay in the middle. The tobacco we grow in the mountains is different than what we grow in the east. What we live in, how we drive, what we eat and how we talk varies from one region to another.

Our annual Touchstone Energy Travel Guide encourages you to experience this variety firsthand.

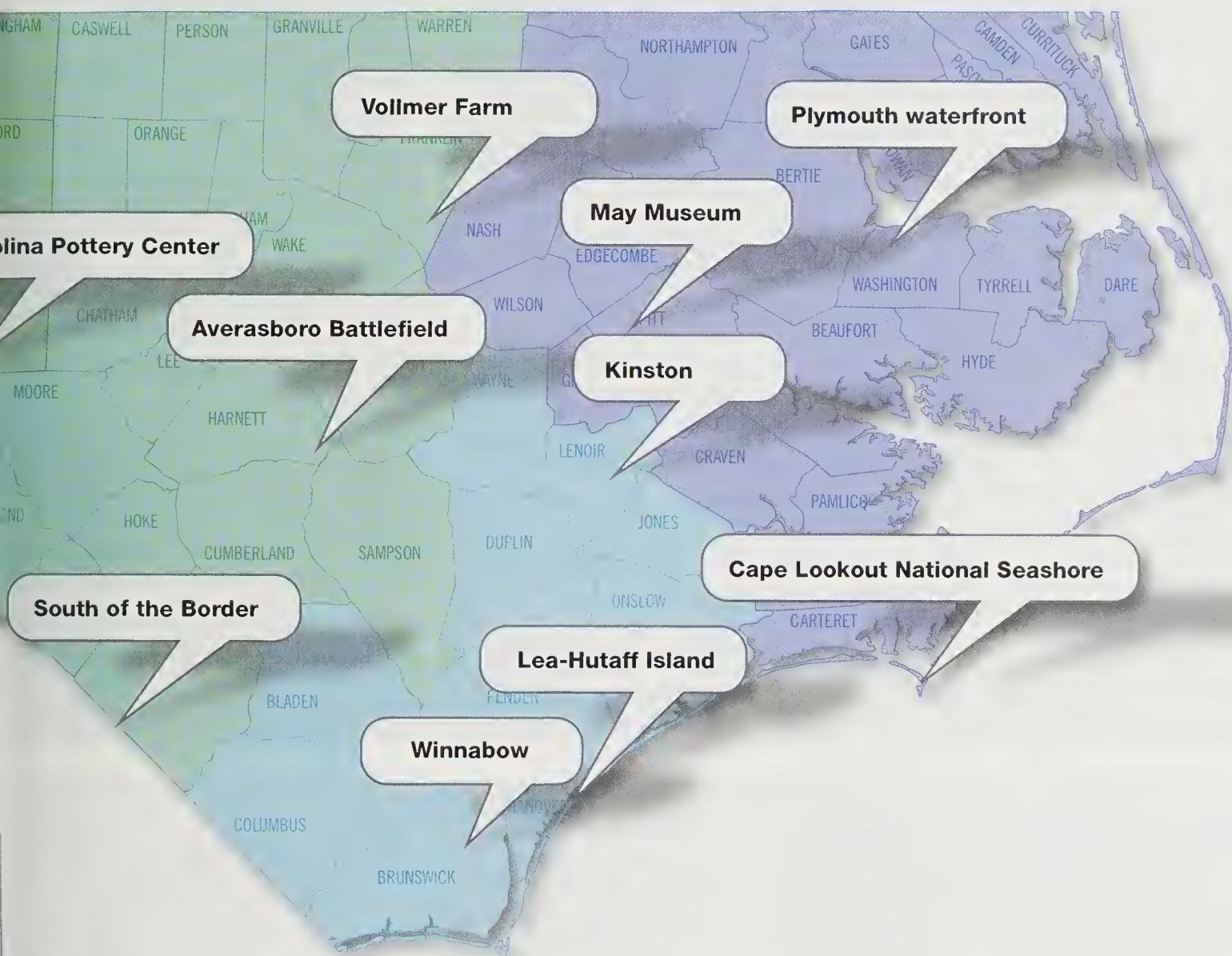
This year we've updated the primary sources of general information about each of five regions and accompany them with a set of Carolina Country Adventures. Among the three adventures for each region are some well-known standbys and some not so familiar, some historical, some recreational, some just plain fun.

As you make your way through this guide and through the countryside, you can be assured that a Touchstone Energy cooperative is nearby.

Thanks to everyone who helped us compile this guide, and to our sponsors: the cooperatives and the advertisers on pages 40 to 43.



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The power of human connections®



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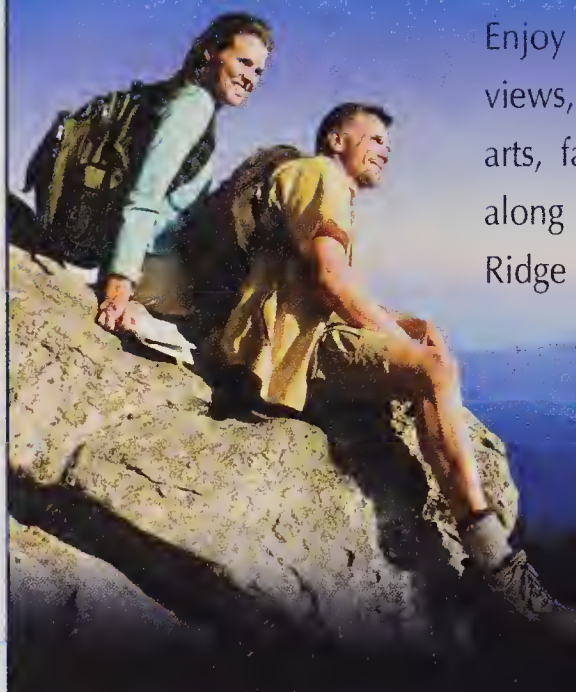
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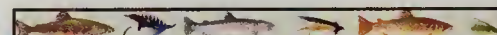


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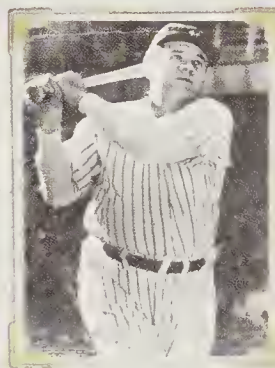
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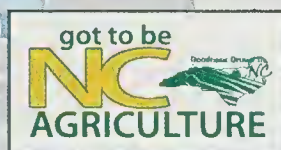
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Mount Mitchell State Park

Yancey County

By Renee Gannon



Mount Mitchell's peak offers a 360-degree view, and information kiosks diagram each range in view.

➔ I have lived in North Carolina my entire life. When we were kids, my dad drove the family every year from one end of the state to the other visiting the hot tourist spots as well as the little unknown gems. I enjoyed every stop. But somehow we missed Mount Mitchell.

I finally reached the Mount Mitchell peak—6,684 feet above sea level—on a beautiful, blue-sky early fall morning last year. My efforts were rewarded with a crisp 360-degree view of the Blue Ridge Mountains at the highest elevation east of the Mississippi.

My trip began a little more than 30 miles south in Asheville at milepost 384 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. My destination lay at milepost 355.4. With the curving, dipping and rising two-lane parkway (as well as several stops to peer out the scenic overlooks), the slow drive would take

almost one hour to reach my turn at Highway 128, and a final climb to the park headquarters within the Black Mountain range.

On Highway 128, yellow hues of tree leaves at the lower elevation gave way to hints of orange and red the higher I climbed. Clouds rushed down the mountainside. The outside temperature dropped from 54 degrees in Asheville to 36 degrees at Mount Mitchell.

Above the clouds

A winding brick walkway from the top parking lot leads visitors to the peak's viewing platform. Visitors wanting to spend more than a few hours scenic gazing have an abundance of activities to choose from in this 1,946-acre state park.

According to park history, French botanist Andre Michaux first explored the Black Mountains in 1787 searching for valuable plants for his government. He collected 2,500 specimens of flora and fauna. Around the same time, Englishman John Fraser collected plants to introduce to his homeland. The Fraser fir honors this botanist.

Mount Mitchell gained its elevation fame in 1835, when Dr. Elisha Mitchell took his excursion to find the highest point in the region. Unfortunately, while proving his ear-

lier measurements correct, Mitchell died in 1857 after falling from a cliff. He is buried at the mountain's peak named for his exploits.

These early explorers' botanic view is a little different from what visitors see today due to natural as well as man-made forces. The most visible damage is to the spruce pine trees, left ghost-like and bare by acid rain.

The park holds forests of red spruce, fire cherry, yellow birch, mountain ash and mountain maple. Mountain raspberry, red elder and honeysuckle add sweet smells to the area already filled with wildflowers, orchids and ox-eye daisy. You can glimpse any of some 91 bird species, deer, black bear, bobcat, gray fox and even the northern flying squirrel.

Picnic areas, horse trails and campsites are located throughout the park. Hiking trails crisscross the park from the easy three-quarter mile Balsam trail to the 16-mile strenuous stretch of the Mountains to the Sea trail. An Educational Center is also available for groups to learn more about the park and its ecology.

Mount Mitchell State Park is open daily, except Christmas Day. The on-site restaurant, concessions stand and museum gift shop are open May–October.



Mount Mitchell State Park

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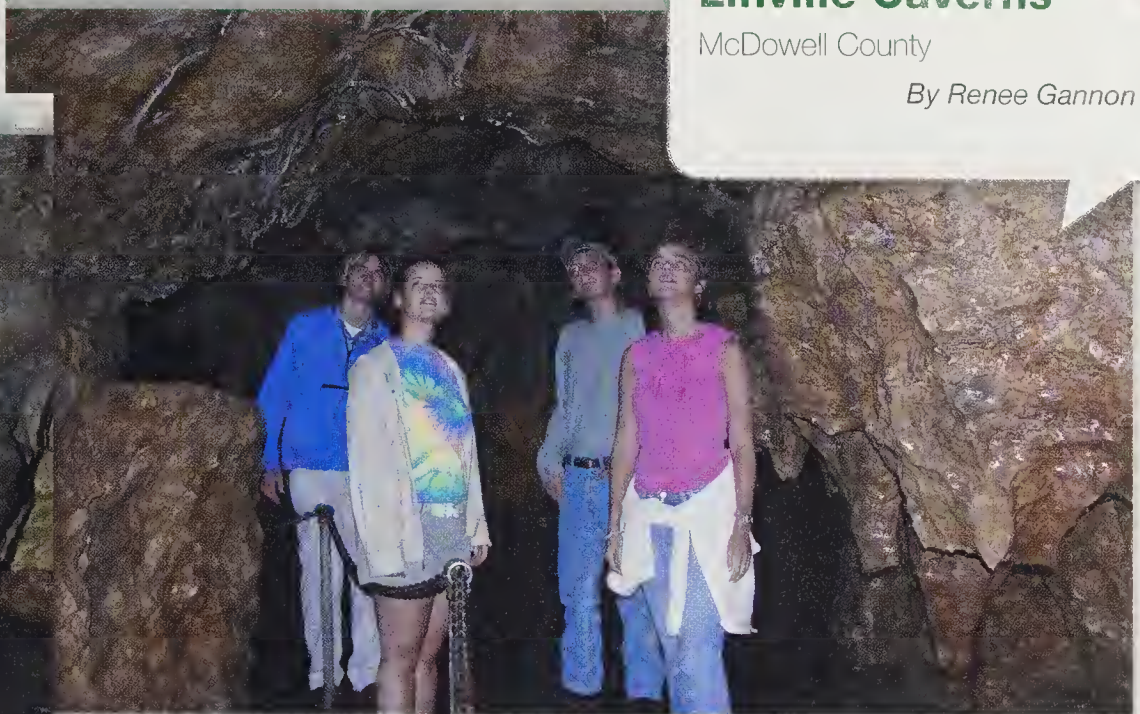
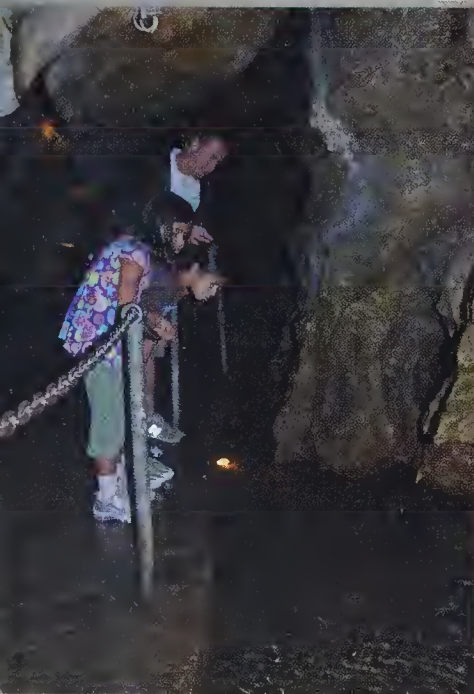
LONG: -82.265



Linville Caverns

McDowell County

By Renee Gannon



Trout swim in and out of the Linville Caverns in an underground stream, and visitors view the cavern's still-growing limestone.

➔ Tour Guide Gary, armed with a flashlight and a gray-mustachioed grin, leads us behind a gray steel door into Humpback Mountain, and the wonder and beauty of the Linville Caverns. The wet, dripping rock that greets us is still-growing limestone.

Eastern brown bats call the cavern home, and trout swim in and out via a cool 42-degree stream that fishermen in 1822 first curiously followed into the mountain.

The caverns are an estimated 20 million years old. Before it opened to the public in 1937, this show cavern (the only one in North Carolina) attracted the curious, including those early fishermen, Native Americans, hiding Civil War soldiers, explorers and treasure hunters. Today, lighted pathways lead you into this subterranean world.

Mysteries of the underworld

The cavern temperature is a constant 52 degrees year-round. A light jacket or sweatshirt and non-slip soles are recommended before entering the wet environment.

Gary introduces the cavern at the spot where those soldiers kept warm by an open fire and points with his flashlight to the top of the cave where

unseen vents let the smoke escape.

The cavern consists of three levels, eight rooms and a multitude of passageways, some of which are off-limits to visitors. Mineral-laden water is the key to the cavern's growing limestone, which takes 125 years to form just one cubic inch. The many colors in the rock are from iron ore rust, calcite, copper, algae and other elements. The water and minerals have created stalactites and stalagmites, forming draperies, columns and canopies of all shapes and colors, as well as natural passageways and open spaces.

On the tour, Gary warns us of the "cave kiss:" hanging rocks that could "kiss your head." Through passageways and open areas, Gary's flashlight illuminates "guess what" shapes that elicited our answers: dinosaurs, aliens, well-known characters such as Davy Jones and Frankenstein, skeletons and food. One room, the Cathedral Room, features a wedding—a frozen bride and groom standing before a frozen preacher.

You can hear the underground stream in this room. The stream leads to the cavern's bottomless lake. Standing in a tight cavern on top of a metal grate, you look down into the lake and imagine divers trying and failing to find the bottom.

Linville Caverns

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Marion, NC 28752

(800) 419-0540

www.linvillecaverns.com

LAT: -35.917

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At the end of the 40-minute tour, Gary had led us 2,500 feet below ground and 700 feet away from the cavern's entrance. He weaves a tale of two teen-aged boys in the early 1900s exploring the cavern with just lanterns. The lanterns went out, plunging the boys into total darkness. Gary asks us to cover or turn off all digital watches and mobile phones to eliminate any light source; he then flips a switch, plunging us into total darkness. Pitch black—I couldn't see my wiggling fingers in front of my face. Imagine the panic those teens felt. Did they make it out of the caverns alive?

More information

Linville Caverns is open year-round (daily March–November, weekends only December–February). Cost: \$7 adults; \$5.50 for 62 and over; \$5 children 5–12; Free for under 5 with adult or senior ticket. 📍

West Jefferson

Ashe County

By Renee Gannon



Situated in the valley between Mount Jefferson and Paddy Mountain in the Blue Ridge Mountains, West Jefferson is a small town that is big on regional pride. With a thriving downtown, a local arts scene, recreation, and, of course, Christmas trees, visitors have an abundance of options at every turn. Oh, and then there's Ashe County Cheese.

Plenty to see and do

Downtown West Jefferson holds an eclectic collection of businesses, including locally-owned restaurants, art galleries (the Friday night Gallery Crawl is worth your time), a western wear store, gift and specialty shops, a toy and hobby store, and a farmers' market. Fifteen wall-size murals created by local artists provide a walking tour of the town's history and culture.

A staple of downtown since 1930, The Ashe County Cheese Store offers fresh-made cheese straight from the



Downtown West Jefferson stores, and hikers enjoying the view from the Mount Jefferson State Park bluffs.

original cheese plant located across the street. The plant's viewing room is open year-round at no charge so cheese lovers can watch the creation of the award-winning cheese varieties.

A few miles outside of downtown, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, religious frescoes adorn the church's walls. The small century-old wooden church houses life-size frescoes created by artist Benjamin F. Long IV depicting Mary Great with Child, John the Baptist and Mystery of Faith. These frescoes are three of the nine found on the Blue Ridge Trail.

If you are looking for more than an art stroll, West Jefferson serves as a gateway to several state and national parks, including the New River State Park and the Mount Jefferson State Park. The New River is the second oldest river in the world and a des-

ignated American Heritage River. Canoeing, kayaking, fishing, tubing, picnic areas and camping are all available. Mount Jefferson at more than 1,600 feet above the valley, offers hiking trails, picnic areas, pavilions and local natural history education.

Ashe County is known for Christmas trees, and West Jefferson is no exception. The town annually holds the Christmas in July Festival over the Independence Day weekend to celebrate the town's roots among the Fraser firs.

West Jefferson started as a railroad depot stop more than 100 years ago. Today, the town has grown to a welcoming tourist stop for Blue Ridge Mountain travelers looking for small town charm, local art and natural adventure. ①

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Kim Hadley

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www.explorewilkes.com

Wilkesboro Tourism Development Authority
(336) 838-3951
www.wilkesboronorthcarolina.com

Yancey County-Burnsville Chamber
(800) 948-1632/(828) 682-7413
www.yanceychamber.com

Historic Rockford

Surry County

By Michael E.C. Gery



Rockford General Store (closed Monday & Tuesday), Rockford Park, and the Methodist Church.



What a great location: facing south and overlooking the easy, 400-foot wide Yadkin River whose north bank is a good place for a railroad. Its location is one reason Rockford held on as the Surry County seat for 61 years (1789–1850), until the state used the river as a boundary to cut the county in half and make Yadkin County on the other side. Then the county seat moved to Dobson.

They say Aaron Burr made his way here, and so did Andrew Jackson, staying at the Grant tavern. The hotel was a happening place from 1796 to 1925. It was a sad day when the Grant-Burrus Hotel burned down in 1974.

Mark York had a tavern here, too, beginning about 1830. On April 1–2, 1865, a week before Lee's surrender, Union Gen. George Stonemen's raiders came down along the river and up the hill to York Tavern. They say he asked Mrs. York where the locals had

hid their valuables, but she refused to say and told the Yankees to get on out, which they did.

Charming, modern-day Rockford

Today, Rockford's location is no longer on a well-beaten path, which gives it a whole different charm. The people here know it, too, and in 1972 Evelyn Holyfield formed the Rockford Preservation Society. Headed by Hannah Holyfield, the Society today owns six properties in the little village and has been carefully saving and showing them off. The hotel site is a public park. The York Tavern has been stabilized, and a N.C. Civil War Trail marker stands in front. The Dudley Glass Store (1850) is now Rockford Mercantile museum store. The Post Office (1900) is a photo gallery. The Masonic Lodge (1797) housed Rockford's last post office (1914–1975), and the Society plans to restore it someday. And the crown jewel Rockford Methodist Church (1914) hosts special events and a famous Candlelight Christmas the first week in December and displays a striking, new fresco fittingly titled "Come Unto Me." The old courthouse building is in the village, too, but is privately owned.

Rockford General Store is the happening place here now. It's been here since the railroad came through in 1890. Besides local news and information, the store trades in historical candies, Nehi orange, signs, antiques and authentic general store goods. Across the way is Yadkin River Adventures outfitters, experts on the local river below it.

They used to get here by fording the river. Then in 1962, they built the "low water bridge," one of those that washed over regularly but never washed out. By 2002, after some dissent, they had replaced it with a high bridge.

Surrounding Historic Rockford is some of the prettiest country in the state—well-kept farms and yards, made prettier by all the vineyards out here.

Memorial Day weekend is a big deal here, and this year a major Remember Rockford reunion is scheduled Labor day weekend for anyone who has ties to the place. 📍

Rockford Preservation Society

4844 Rockford Road,
Dobson, NC 27017

(336) 374-8825

www.rememberrockford.com

Lat: 36.269

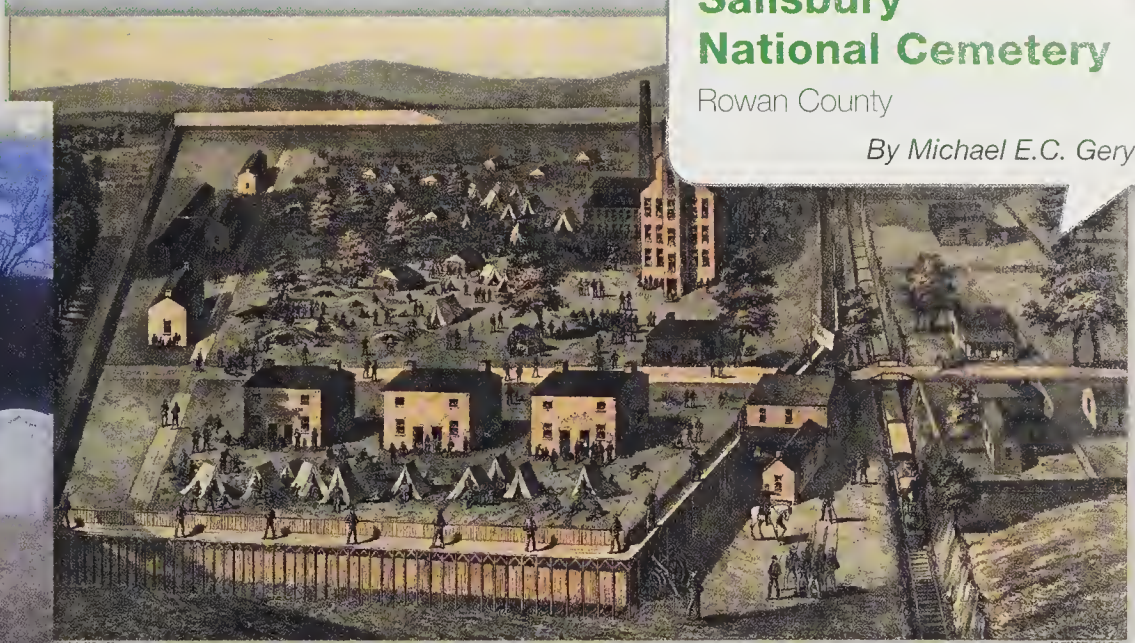
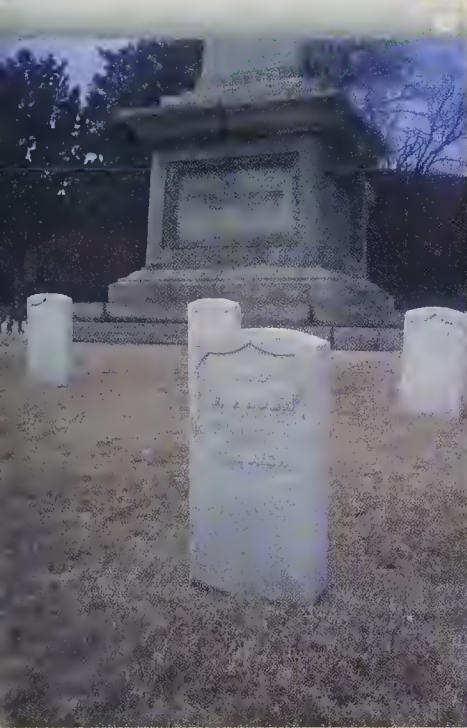
Long: -80.649



Salisbury National Cemetery

Rowan County

By Michael E.C. Gery



The 1876 cemetery monument and an 1886 lithograph of the prison.

→ All cemeteries are historic and solemn, but the Salisbury National Cemetery may be the most historic and solemn in North Carolina.

Spread on 63 gently rolling and well-groomed acres are rows and rows of white stone markers, similar to the more famous Arlington National Cemetery, memorializing military veterans and families from all branches of service. The quiet dignity of the graves mutes the adjacent municipal Lincoln Park, a factory, a housing project, the din of I-85 and the Southern Railway which played a role in the cemetery's history.

As the War Between the States approached, Salisbury was one of North Carolina's leading cities, a major manufacturing and railroad hub. In December 1861, some seven months after North Carolina joined the Confederacy, 120 Union soldiers, many captured at Bull Run in Virginia, arrived here to occupy the Salisbury Confederate Military Prison newly established in a nearby 16-acre factory compound. Over the next three years, the prison population rose to about 5,000, composed of Union POWs, deserters and various criminals with both Union and rebel ties. In summer 1864, the exchange of prisoners between the Union and the

Confederacy ceased, and the population of a prison intended for 2,500 swelled to unmanageable numbers approaching 10,000. All buildings were converted to makeshift hospitals. A Union Naval blockade forced a shortage of medicine and supplies to the region, and no place inside or out was sanitary.

Mass graves and prison burning

Records indicate that a 2 percent death rate at Salisbury Prison by October 1864 had risen to a point where nearly one in three men were dying. Coffin burial had degraded to a 2 p.m. daily wagon transport of bodies to an abandoned cornfield about a quarter-mile outside the prison walls. There the bodies were dumped into trenches. By the end, the mass graves comprised 18 trenches, each 240 feet long. One estimate is that some 11,000 men were buried here. Government records can account for only about 5,000. Today, that burial ground, a surface smaller than a football field, is bounded by unmarked headstones at each end of the trenches.

When a prisoner exchange was reinstated some two months before the war's end, about 5,100 Salisbury prisoners were sent to Wilmington, N.C., and to Richmond, Va. And on

Rowan County Tourism Development Authority

204 East Innes Street, Ste. 120
Salisbury, NC 28144

(800) 332-2343

www.visitsalisburync.com

LAT: 35.917

LONG: -81.938

April 12, 1865, three days after Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Union Gen. George Stoneman concluded his raid through western North Carolina by burning the Salisbury prison. The same year saw the burial grounds established as a national cemetery.

More monuments and memorials

Salisbury National Cemetery was dedicated in 1874, headstones went in two years later. Congress commissioned a 50-foot monument completed in 1876. The state of Maine in 1908 placed a monument to remember its dead, and Pennsylvania did the same in 1909. The Rowan County Veterans Council donated an all-wars memorial in 1990, the Daughters of the Confederacy set a tablet for the unnamed dead in 1992, and a memorial for the 4th Marine Division was erected in 2002.

The cemetery, entered off E. Monroe St. or S. Railroad St., is managed by the U.S. Veterans Administration and is open dawn to dusk for visitation. 📍

North Carolina Pottery Center

Seagrove, Randolph County

By Margarita Galvan



The Pottery Center's light, airy gallery, and a demonstration by Seagrove's Chas Brown in the educational building.



Situated in the village of Seagrove, surrounded by bucolic countryside speckled with approximately 100 potting studios, stands the North Carolina Pottery Center. With its mission to promote an awareness of North Carolina's pottery heritage through exhibitions, education, outreach and visitor services, the NC Pottery Center (NCPC) offers visitors a chance to explore the state's ongoing pottery heritage and traditions.

Family ties keep pottery traditions alive

The state of North Carolina boasts a highly developed potting culture. Geological boons of abundant naturally occurring clay and the minerals used in glazes helped root North Carolina's ceramic history. However, it's the state's unbroken chain of pottery heritage which allowed the art to grow and thrive into what it is today.

The Industrial Revolution forced most potters around the nation to leave their wheels for more modern trades, but family networks of potters in pockets of North Carolina kept the traditions alive, enabling the passage of knowledge, techniques and talents down from generation to generation. Many family potting studios in Seagrove can be traced back four and five generations. The village of Seagrove, referred to as the "potting capital of the North Carolina," is a fitting location for the first State Pottery Center in the nation. The center has been well received from the start. Only six months after its opening in 1998, visitors from each state of the nation and 20 foreign countries had toured the center.

Center displays more than 800 pieces

Architect Frank Harmon of Raleigh designed the award-winning facility, with a nod towards a rustic barn but tempered with a light and airy elegance, where more than 800 pottery pieces and artifacts are on display. Permanent exhibits depict the state's historical beginnings of pottery from prehistoric Native American ceramics, the European settlers' traditions and up through modern day. New exhibits

guided by the center's mission are featured quarterly. Additionally, the center showcases contemporary pottery talents from local Seagrove potters in a gallery of vases, cookware and scowling face jugs in every hue from brilliant saturated reds to muted earth tones. For visitors intending on shopping Seagrove's unparalleled variety, this sampling of local potters' work both whets the shopping appetite and can serve as a guide for plotting which of the many pottery studios to visit.

Upcoming events

The NCPC puts on demonstrations, workshops and events throughout the year. Upcoming is a live auction, free and open to the public, on April 25. Leisurely peruse the auction pieces from 3:30 to 4:40 p.m. while munching on appetizers and enjoying the live bluegrass band. The bidding starts at 5 p.m.

The NCPC is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. ☺

North Carolina Pottery Center

233 East Avenue
Seagrove, NC 27341

(336) 873-8430

www.ncpotterycenter.com

LAY 36.269

LOWE -80.649





NC Division of Tourism - Bill Russ

➔ Western Piedmont Travel Resources

Anson County Chamber
(Wadesboro)
(704) 694-4181
www.ansoncounty.org

Anson County Tourism Development Authority
(704) 694-9570
www.discoveranson.com

Archdale-Trinity Chamber
(336) 434-2073
www.archdaletrinitychamber.com

Belmont Chamber
(704) 825-5307
www.belmontchamber.com
www.montcrossareachamber.com

Bessemer City Chamber
(704) 629-3900
www.bessemercity.com

Cabarrus County CVB
(800) 848-3740/(704) 782-4340
www.visitcabarrus.com

Central Park NC
(910) 428-9001
www.centralparknc.org

Charlotte Chamber
(704) 378-1300
www.charlottechamber.org

Charlotte CVB
(800) 722-1994/(704) 334-2282
www.charlottesgotalot.com

Cherryville Chamber
(704) 435-3451
www.cherryvillechamber.com
www.cityofcherryville.com

Davidson County
(866) 604-2389
www.visitdavidsoncounty.com

Davie County Chamber
(336) 751-3304
www.daviecounty.com

Denton Area Chamber
(336) 859-5922
www.dentonnorthcarolina.com

Eden Chamber
(336) 623-3336
www.edenchamber.com

Elkin-Jonesville Chamber
(877) SAVORYV/(336) 526-1111
www.yadkinvalley.org

Gaston County Chamber
(800) 348-8461/(704) 864-2621
www.gastonchamber.com

Gaston County Travel & Tourism
(800) 849-9994/(704) 825-4044
www.gastontourism.com

Greensboro Area Chamber
(336) 387-8300
www.greensboro.org

Greensboro Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
(800) 344-2282/(336) 274-2282
www.visitgreensboro.com
www.greensboronc.org

High Point Chamber
(336) 882-5000
www.highpointchamber.org

High Point Convention and Visitors Bureau
(800) 720-5255/(336) 884-5255
www.highpoint.org

Kernersville Chamber
(336) 993-4521
www.kernersvillenc.com

King Chamber
(336) 983-9308
www.kingnc.com

Lexington Area Chamber and Visitors Center
(866) 604-2389/(336) 236-4218
www.visitlexingtonnc.com

Marshville Chamber
(704) 624-3183
www.marshvillenc.com

Matthews Chamber
(704) 847-3649
www.matthewschamber.com

Mint Hill
(704) 545-9726
www.minthill.com

Monroe Tourism & Visitors Bureau
(704) 282-4542
www.visitmonroenc.org

Greater Mount Airy
(800) 948-0949/(336) 786-6116
www.visitmayberry.com

Piedmont Triad Visitors Center
(800) 388-9830/(336) 388-9830
www.greensboronc.org

Piedmont Triad
(800) 669-4556/(336) 668-4556
www.piedmonttriadnc.com

Randolph County, Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau
(800) 626-2672/(336) 626-0364
www.heartofnorthcarolina.com

Reidsville Chamber
(336) 349-8481
www.reidsvillechamber.org

Rowan County Chamber
(704) 633-4221
www.rowanchamber.com

Rowan County CVB
(800) 332-2343/(704) 638-3100
www.visitsalisburync.com

Stanly County Chamber
(704) 982-8116
www.stanlychamber.org

Stanly County CVB
(800) 650-1476/(704) 986-2583
www.stanlycvb.com

Stokes County
www.visitstokesnc.com

Surry County Tourism Development Authority
(877) 999-8300/(336) 401-8390
www.veryurry.com

Thomasville Visitors Center
(800) 611-9907/(336) 472-4422
www.thomasvilletourism.com

Union County Chamber
(704) 289-4567
www.unioncountycoc.com

Western Rockingham Chamber
(336) 548-6248
www.westernrockinghamchamber.com

Winston-Salem Visitor Center
(866) 728-4200/(336) 728-4200
www.visitwinstonsalem.com

Yadkin County Chamber
1-877-4YADKIN (1-877-492-3546)/
(336) 679-2200
www.yadkinchamber.org

Vollmer Farm

Franklin County

By Tara Verna



Vollmer Farms allows school groups to practice milking "Bessie." Right, everyone dives into the "sand box" overflowing with more than 100 bushels of corn.



➔ Exhausted, dirty, fingers (and mouths!) sticky with berry juice and homemade ice cream, that's how most kids—and adults—leave Vollmer Farm.

Located in Bunn, this fifth generation family farm offers up organic produce, including pick-your-own strawberries April–June, and blueberries, June–July.

Come fall, pull a pumpkin right out of the patch, then take a hay ride to "The Back Forty" for 40 acres of fun: the tot rocket zip line, a 40-foot underground slide, a cow train, a corn maze and a "sand box" overflowing with more than 100 bushels of corn. The Back Forty's 2,500-square-foot, pumpkin-colored jumping pillow sends kids flying sky-high. And just like any farm worth its salt, you'll find a menagerie of farm animals, including chickens, dogs and a cow.

"Who wouldn't love jumping on the giant pumpkin pillow or riding in the cow train?" said Renee Koliander of Wake Forest. "And yes, the adults rode, too! We spent five hours playing, jumping, sliding and even climbing in the 'sand box' of dried corn. We loved it and can't wait to go back."

Bring your trip to a sweet close with a scoop of homemade ice cream from Aunt Mary's Market. Extend your visit and breakfast first at The Farmer's Table in Bunn for some blueberry pancakes and other hearty fare on Sunday mornings.

Join Vollmer Farm

In addition to the pick-your-own crops and the Back Forty, Vollmer Farm offers a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm. Join the CSA for a set price and then receive a weekly share of mostly organic fruits and vegetables throughout the growing season (April–August). The farm also caters to school groups by offering a spring tour and three themed fall tours (bee observatory, chicken coop and butter making). And if you'd like

to experience working on a farm, high school sophomores and older can sign up to be a "farm hand." Deadline for fall season is September 1.

Born and raised on the farm, John Vollmer helped his father raise tobacco back in the 70s and 80s until it became apparent that the outlook for tobacco farming was bleak. To sustain the farm for future generations, the family decided to diversify into pumpkins, strawberries and organics, adding blueberries to their line-up in 2010.

Vollmer Farm opens its fields for strawberry picking in April. Get a 5-pound bucket of luscious organic strawberries for \$12. The Back Forty opens to the public on weekends at the end of September through November 1. Admission is \$15 for ages 2 and up. Hours vary according to the season so call or look online before you go. 📞

Vollmer Farm

677 NC Hwy 98E
Bunn, NC 27508

(919) 496-3076

www.vollmerfarm.com

Lat 35.917

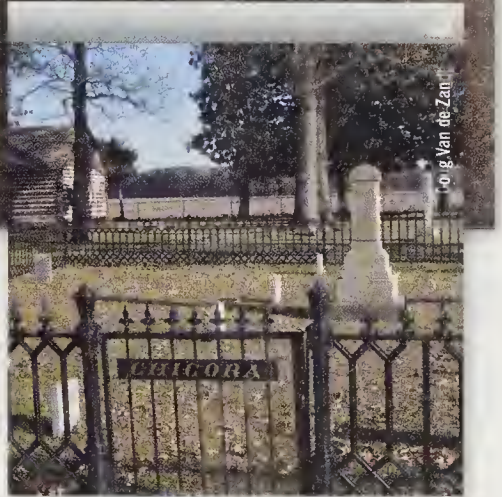
Long -81.938



Averasboro Battlefield Museum

Cumberland County

By Linda Van de Zande



Doug Van de Zande

Doug Van de Zande

Doug Van de Zande

The Oak Grove house is being restored. A marker indicates the Confederate first line of defense. Chicora Cemetery is the burial site for 56 fallen Confederates.

➔ Pause in the still air of the Averasboro Battlefield Museum and drift back to the evening of March 14, 1865. Imagine the families in the homes still standing here—Lebanon, Oak Grove, the William T. Smith Plantation—when they hosted rebel soldiers preparing for battle. Picture the excitement of the girls to have these handsome young men in their homes, the music of the dances, the chatter over meals, the Smith men congratulating the proud soldiers. Then think how the families felt when Union soldiers pushed through and fighting broke out. They took in wounded soldiers and their homes became makeshift hospitals where they cared for their own boys in grey as well as the hurt and ravaged Yankee boys.

Averasboro Battlefield Museum tells the story of all this and more. See an actual quilt, water stains and all, which was used in neighboring Sampson County to hide valuables. The family wrapped its heirlooms in this quilt and hid them in the stump of a tree. Silverware, furniture and clothing, all paint the picture of the life before, during and after the Battle of Averasboro. In the museum here,

you'll find a large model of the battle, complete with houses and fields.

Averasboro was a two-day battle designed to delay Sherman's troops while the Confederacy put men in place for the bigger siege in Bentonville a few miles to the north. The men fought hard on March 15 from 6 a.m. to dusk, and again the next day, and held their ground. On the evening of March 16, the Confederates began their planned retreat, and the Union troops advanced to Bentonville where they ultimately prevailed in the last Civil War battle held on North Carolina soil.

Smith family places

Up the road from the battlefield is Chicora Cemetery, which was used by the Daughters of the Confederacy to bury the bodies of the Confederate men who fought here. Fifty six soldiers are buried there, only two whose names are known.

Further down the road, the John Smith house called Oak Grove still stands, across the road from where it was built, and is being restored for private use. Further down NC 82 on Ross West Road, the N.C. Department of Transportation has provided funds which will help turn the William T.

Averasboro Battlefield and Museum

3300 Hwy 82
Dunn, NC 28334
(910) 891-5019

www.averasboro.com

LAT: 35.263

LONG: -78.673

Smith Plantation into a transportation museum.

Heading back toward Dunn, just past Arrowhead Road, is Lebanon, the private home of a Smith family member whose heritage goes back to John Smith, the original owner of the vast plantation. This home also was used as a field hospital for the Confederates during the war and has been owned and inhabited by the Smith family since it was given by John Smith as a wedding gift in 1822. Lebanon is not open to tourists.

The Averasboro Battlefield Commission sponsors many events throughout the year. Watch the Web site for postings. 📱

South of the Border

I-95's North Carolina border

By Michael E.C. Gery



The Border's 97-foot Pedro and 200-foot tower.



➔ Although this famous tourist attraction is based in Hamer, Dillon County, S.C., its 400-some acres spread into North Carolina and its name refers to south of the border. Also, it was established 60 years ago when Alan Schafer put up an 18-by-36-foot "depot" to sell beer to people from North Carolina's Robeson County and other localities where selling beer was illegal. Motorists along US 301 stopped here, too, so Schafer added a 10-seat grill then 20 motel rooms in 1954.

Although it shows its age, "The Border" today jams with 300 motel rooms (some with a carport), six restaurants, two gas stations, two Golf of Mexico courses, a car wash, Silver Slipper flea market and internet café, fireworks and ammo shop, swimming pools, El Toro arcade ("peso little"), Pedroland amusement park, an RV

park/campground, Porky's Truck Stop, Myrtle Beach and Orlando ticket booths, a U.S. Post Office, Concrete Bazaar, a "convention center," the Carolina & Upper Mexico Railroad, a 200-foot tower topped with a giant sombrero, a 97-foot-high 77-ton Pedro mascot, and a Pleasure Dome complete with wedding chapel, hot tub and "heir-conditioned" honeymoon suite (\$99). Farther down the highway are the Fantasy Girls, Dr. Tom's leather, and some kind of spa. In between, the South of the Border Motor Sales operation has closed.

Who would have thought?

The Schafer family began selling things here in the 1870s and went into the beer business right after Prohibition ended in 1933 when Sam Schafer hauled a pickup truckload of beer from Baltimore and sold it for 75 cents a bottle. By 2000, Schafer Distributing Co. was selling beer to more than half of South Carolina's counties.

When Interstate 95 was in the planning stages in the late 1950s, Schafers went to Washington to make sure it ran by here, then bought up as much land as they could. The third genera-

tion since Alan is running the place now. "Who would ever have thought Pee Dee swamp land would become a multi-million dollar a year business!" they say. Many of the 7 million visitors each year are lured in by the 175 billboards ("You never sausage a place!") along I-95 and other highways that lead here. (The signs are made next door at Pedro's Ace-Hi Advertising.)

Why "Pedro"? The story is that two of the first motel bellhops were Mexican immigrants who were called Pedro and Pancho, until most everyone called them both Pedro.

The Mexico Shop is a massive collection of bins containing millions of souvenirs and almost as many hats. Kids and grownups both seem to like posing for photos next to one or all of the super-sized Pedros and animal figures on the grounds: a hot dog, gorilla, cattle, flamingos, an elephant.

It's open 24 hours, every day of the year. You could spend your vacation here rather than continuing on to Myrtle Beach or Orlando. 📍

South of the Border

I-95 at US 301/501

Dillon, SC 29547

(843) 774-2411

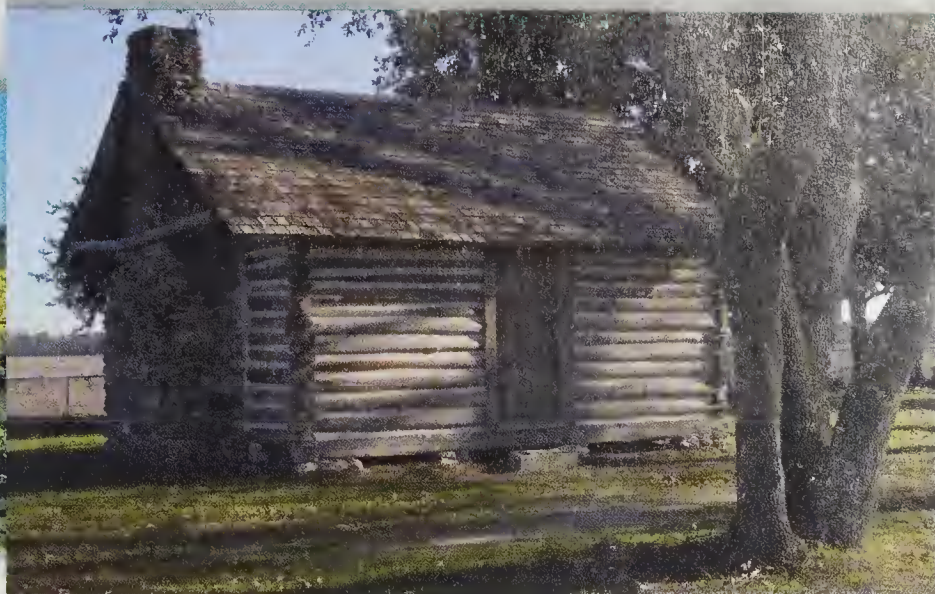
www.thesouthoftheborder.com

Lat: 34.499

Long: -79.309



NC Division of Tourism - Bill Russ



→ Eastern Piedmont Travel Resources

Angier Chamber
(919) 639-2500
www.angierchamber.org

Apex Chamber
(800) 345-4504/(919) 362-6456
www.apexchamber.com

Benson Chamber
(919) 894-3825
www.benson-chamber.com
www.bensonmuledays.com

Burlington/Alamance CVB
(800) 637-3804/(336) 570-1444
www.visitalamance.com

Capital Area Visitor Center
(866) 724-8687/(919) 807-7950
www.nccapvisit.org

Cary Chamber
(800) 919-CARY/(919) 467-1016
www.carychamber.com

Town of Cary
(919) 469-4000
www.townofcary.org

Caswell County Chamber
(336) 694-6106
www.caswellchamber.com

Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau
(888) 968-2060
www.chocvb.org

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber
(919) 967-7075
www.carolinachamber.org

Clayton Chamber
(919) 553-6352
www.claytonchamber.com

Dunn Area Tourism Authority
(910) 892-3282
www.dunn tourism.org

Durham CVB
(800) 446-8604/(919) 687-0288
www.durham-nc.com

Greater Durham Chamber
(919) 328-8700
www.durhamchamber.org

Erwin Area Chamber
(910) 897-7300
www.erwinchamber.org

Fayetteville Area CVB
(800) 255-8217/(910) 483-5311
www.visitfayettevillenc.com

Franklin County
(919) 496-3056
www.franklin-chamber.org

Fuquay-Varina Area
(919) 552-4947
www.fuquay-varina.com

Garner Chamber
(919) 772-6440
www.garnerchamber.com

Garner
(919) 772-6440
www.ci.garner.nc.us

Granville County Chamber
(919) 693-6125/(919) 528-4994
www.granville-chamber.com

Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber
(919) 732-8156
www.hillsboroughchamber.com

Historic Hillsborough/Orange County Visitors Center
(919) 732-7741
www.historichillsborough.org

Holly Springs Chamber
(919) 567-1796
www.hollyspringschamber.org

Town of Holly Springs
(919) 552-6221
www.hollyspringsnc.us

Hope Mills Area Chamber
(910) 423-4314
www.hopemillschamber.com

Johnston County Visitors Bureau
(800) 441-7829/(919) 989-8687
www.johnstoncountync.org

Knightdale Chamber
(919) 266-4603
www.knightdalechamber.org
www.knightdalenc.gov

Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber
(910) 276-7420
www.laurinburgchamber.com

Lillington Area
(910) 893-3751
www.lillingtonnc.com
www.lillingtonchamber.org

Lumberton Visitors Bureau
(800) 359-6971/(910) 739-9999
www.lumberton-nc.com

Montgomery County
(910) 572-4300
www.montgomery-county.com

Morrisville Chamber
(919) 463-7150
www.morrisvillenc.com

Pembroke
(910) 521-9758
www.pembrokenc.com

Person County Tourism
(336) 597-2689
www.visitroxboronc.com

Pinehurst, Southern Pines and Aberdeen Area CVB
(800) 346-5362
www.homeofgolf.com

Pittsboro-Siler CVB
(919) 542-8296
www.visitpittsboro.com

Raeford-Hoke Chamber
(910) 875-5929
www.hoke-raeford.com

Greater Raleigh Chamber
(919) 664-7000
www.raleighchamber.org

Greater Raleigh CVB
(800) 849-8499/(919) 834-5900
www.visitraleigh.com

Red Springs
(910) 843-5241
www.redsprings.org

Richmond County Chamber, Rockingham
(910) 895-9058
www.richmondcountychamber.com

Richmond County Tourism Development Authority
(800) 858-1688/(910) 895-9057
www.visitrichmondcounty.com

Rolesville Town Hall
(919) 556-3506
www.ci.rolesville.nc.us

Roxboro Area Chamber
(336) 599-8333
www.roxboronc.com

Saint Pauls Chamber
(910) 865-5164/(910) 865-3890
www.stpaulsnc.gov

Moore County Chamber
(910) 692-3926
www.moorecountychamber.com

Sanford Area Chamber
(919) 775-7341
www.sanford-nc.com

Smithfield-Selma Area Chamber
(919) 934-9166
www.smithfieldselma.com

Greater Spring Lake Chamber
(910) 497-8821
www.springlakenc.org

Vance County Tourism Department
(Henderson)
(866) 438-4565/(252) 438-2222
www.kerrlake-nc.com

Wake Forest Area
(919) 556-1519
www.wakeforestchamber.org

Warren County EDC
(252) 257-2657
www.warren-chamber.org

Wendell Chamber
(919) 365-6318
www.wendellchamber.com

Zebulon
(919) 269-6320
www.zebulonchamber.org

Winnabow attractions

Brunswick County

By Tara Verna



The building of Brunswick Town's St. Philip's Church took 14 years to complete. These walls are all that remain. Top right, dating from 1725, the Orton Plantation House is one of the oldest structures in Brunswick County.



Orton Plantation Gardens

No doubt Orton Plantation Gardens offers a visual feast for the eyes—like something right out of a movie. Perhaps that's why more than 25 films and dozens of television series have been filmed here, including "A Walk to Remember." Plus it was featured in the book, "1,000 Places To See Before You Die."

This year the garden celebrates 100 years—stemming from its modest beginnings as James and Luola Sprunt's flower garden back in 1910. But the plantation's roots go all the way back to 1725 when "King" Roger Moore founded Orton as well as

nearby Brunswick Town. Up until the 19th century, Orton Plantation was famous for its rice. Since then, the old rice fields are flooded in winter to make a home for migrating waterfowl. The gardens are now famous for 20 acres of camellias, azaleas, hydrangeas, 100-year-old live oaks; the stunning Orton House (c. 1725); the charming Luola's Chapel; and the view overlooking the old rice fields to the Cape Fear River.

One of the garden's big events is the annual Azalea Festival, set for April 10. Other events are being planned in honor of the 100th anniversary. Check the Web site for details.

Allow at least 45 minutes for touring the gardens by foot. Open daily March–August, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.; September–November, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$3 for children (ages 6–16).

Fort Anderson, a Civil War fort built atop the old village site during the Civil War. "This place literally stops time," said site interpreter Jim McKee.

Founded in 1726, Brunswick Town was home to three colonial governors. The town was deliberately burned on three separate occasions, the last time by British troops in 1776 and never rebuilt. The building of the town's Anglican church—St. Philip's Church—took 14 years to complete and only one day to destroy during that same burning. Parts of its walls still stand.

Decades later in 1861, during Civil War time, the Confederate States of America decided to build a fort at the Brunswick Town site. Originally called Fort St. Philip, Fort Anderson would protect Wilmington by blocking Union forces from moving supplies up the Cape Fear River. Fort Anderson is one of the best preserved earthen fortifications in the world.

On Oct. 31, Brunswick Town features its Colonial Heritage Days. Watch costumed interpreters demonstrate colonial chores, crafts and games from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Cost is free.

Normally open Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Sunday. 📍

Orton Plantation Gardens

9149 Orton Road, S.E.
Winnabow, NC 28479

(910) 371-6851

www.ortongardens.com

LAT: 35.917

LONG: -81.938



Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson

8884 St. Philip's Road, S.E.
Winnabow, NC 28479

(910) 371-6613

www.nchistoricsites.org/Brunswick/brunwic.htm

LAT: 35.917

LONG: -81.938



Lea-Hutaff Island

Pender County

By Carla Burgess



Black skimmers, above, skim the water with their beaks to catch fish. Bird on the right is a sanderling.



➔ With abundant birding, boating and fishing opportunities, Lea-Hutaff Island is a superlative recreation destination on North Carolina's southern coast. The hitch is you can only get there by boat. A lack of development, docks or other public facilities contributes to its status as one of three undeveloped barrier islands left in the state. A fairly flat, narrow swath of sand, nearly bereft of dunes, the island is bordered by salt marsh and sea. It stretches 4 miles from tip to tip and comprises only 5,650 acres.

The island is an important breeding site for shorebirds, notably the black skimmer and least tern, whose overall populations are declining—hundreds of nesting pairs raise their offspring on the open sands. Birdwatchers observe innumerable species of shorebirds, waterfowl, marsh birds and wading birds on the island. Kayakers explore sinewy pathways in tidal marshes. The surf is a hot spot for red drum, luring anglers to the beach and inlet shorelines, while beachcombers are wowed by the impressive amount of sand dollars and seashells.

Island formation and ownership

Lea-Hutaff was once a pair of islands that joined until an inlet between the two shoaled in. Hurricanes battered

the islands in the mid- to late 1990s, causing extensive overwash. The island is now bound by Topsail Inlet at the north end and Rich Inlet at the south. Topsail Island and Figure Eight Island are its northern and southern neighbors, respectively. At one time entirely privately owned, Lea Island was subdivided into 30 lots and sold to individuals. Hutaff has a single owner. Only one home exists. Hoping to permanently protect wildlife habitat, the N.C. Coastal Land Trust has been gradually buying small parcels of Lea Island, 28 acres so far, and deeding them to the state parks system.

Protected species call the island home

N.C. Audubon oversees protection of the island's bird habitat. During breeding season, around mid-April to August, Audubon cordons off some areas to protect nests and chicks from human disturbance. (Alternate pathways are provided by which visitors can get from the sound to the beach.) The piping plover, a tiny shorebird, nests in few numbers on the island. It is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, as is the loggerhead turtle, which also nests here. Female loggerheads come ashore in summer, dig nests on the

Lea Island Conservation Initiative

National Audubon Society
North Carolina State Office
7741 Market Street, Unit D
Wilmington, NC 28411

(910) 686-7527

www.nc.audubon.org

LAT. 35.917

LONG. -81.938

beach, lay and bury their eggs and then return to the ocean. It is illegal to interfere with nesting of protected species. Visitors are asked to respect all wildlife nesting sites. For more information, visit www.nc.audubon.org.

If you go

To find public boat ramps nearby, visit www.carolinanow.com or www.ncwildlife.org/Boating_Waterways/Boating_Maps_Locations.htm. N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission provides free coastal boating maps at www.ncwildlife.org or call (919) 707-0150. Check with local outfitters about guided tours. 📍

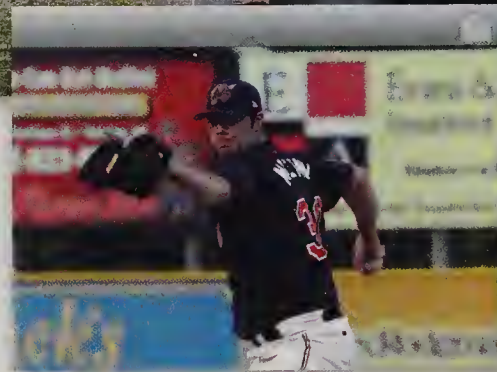
Kinston

Lenoir County

By Tara Verna



Above right, the CSS Neuse II, a full-sized replica of a Confederate gunboat, rests in downtown Kinston. Below right, the Kinston Indians, a minor league baseball team.



➔ From one of only three remaining Civil War ironclads to a history steeped in blues and jazz music, put Kinston on your radar as a worthwhile place to explore North Carolina's heritage.

CSS Neuse

The state site off of Vernon Avenue preserves the remnants of the world's only commissioned Confederate ironclad, the CSS Neuse. Covered in iron confiscated from railroad tracks, this ram was designed to collide with and sink enemy boats. Take a free tour to learn about the ship's construction, her short life and her 100-year sleep beneath the waters of the Neuse River. The site also offers a museum that tells the story of Richard Caswell, North Carolina's first elected governor. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

Later this year, the CSS Neuse will be moved to the new 30,000-square-

foot CSS Neuse Museum in downtown Kinston. In addition to the ship, the museum will showcase nearly 12,000 related artifacts, a cannon with a functioning carriage, a theater and more.

Not far from the museum, visitors can view a full-sized replica of a Confederate gunboat, the 158-foot-long CSS Neuse II, that rests quite close to the "cat hole" in the Neuse River where the original ironclad was fitted with iron plating.

The Heart of Kinston—Jazz, Blues & Gospel

Back in the 1930s, Kinston was right up there with Chicago and New York as a popular stop for big jazz and blues bands. Music lovers poured into Kinston's tobacco warehouses for concerts—as many as 3,000–4,000 people per performance. The music scene was so big that record executives made a special trip to Kinston to learn why a city of 9,000 was purchasing more than 45,000 records per year!

Among the great musicians hailing from Kinston are brothers Melvin Parker, a drummer for James Brown, and Maceo Parker, a saxophonist who also played with James Brown; plus Ray Charles, Dizzy Gillespie and James Taylor.

With a history so rich in jazz, blues and gospel music, Kinston was a natural starting point for the African-American Heritage Music Trail, a project already five years in the making. The trail will include stops in seven other eastern counties: Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Nash, Pitt, Wayne and Wilson.

Kinston's Art Center, the initiator of the project, is working to create lots of interactive public art in a 3.5-acre park, including sound walls, sound mounds, an interactive canopy, an electronic billboard to showcase musicians' performance schedules, and more. Next phase of the project involves the development of interactive kiosks, maps and a travel guidebook. Project completion is slated for 2011.

A couple of upcoming events in Kinston include "Eastern NC Bluegrass" on April 10 and May 8 from 8 a.m.–12 p.m. and "BBQ Festival on the Neuse" April 28–May 1. The BBQ festival includes a Plein aire art show, BBQ cook-off, bands and entertainment. See www.bbqfestivalontheneuse.com to learn more. 📍

Kinston/Lenoir County Visitor's and Information Center

101 East New Bern Road
Kinston, NC 28504

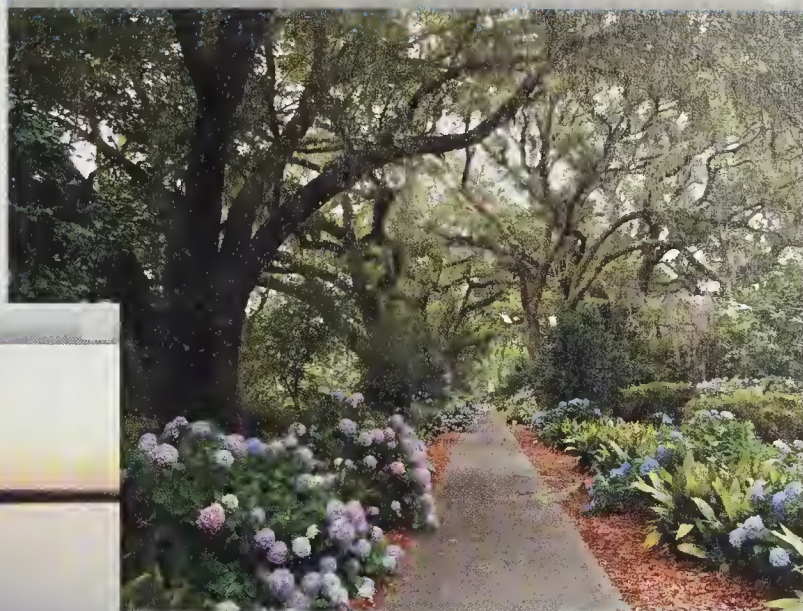
(252) 523-2500

(800) 869-0032

www.visitkinston.com

Lat: 35.267

Long: -77.581



→ Southern Coastland Travel Resources

Bald Head Island Information Center
(800) 432-7368
www.baldheadisland.com

Beulaville
(910) 298-4647
www.townofbeulaville.com

Brunswick County, Shallotte
(800) 426-6644/(910) 754-6644
www.brunswickcountychamber.org

Brunswick County Tourism Development Authority
(910) 755-5517
www.ncbrunswick.com

Cape Fear Coast CVB (Wilmington, Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, Wrightsville Beach)
(877) 406-2356
www.gocapefearcoast.com

Columbus County Tourism
(910) 640-2818
www.discovercolumbuscounty.org

Coast Host
Information on attractions and accommodations
www.coasthost-nc.com

Juplin County Tourism
(877) UNCORK0/(910) 296-2181
www.uncorkduplin.com

Elizabethtown-White Lake
(910) 862-4368
www.elizabethtownwhitelake.com
www.bladeninfo.org

Fair Bluff
(910) 649-5998
www.fairbluff.com

Faison
(877) UNCORK0/(910) 267-2721
www.uncorkduplin.com

Greater Goldsboro Travel & Tourism
(866) 440-2245/(919) 734-2241
www.greatergoldsboro.com

Greater Hampstead Chamber
(800) 833-2483/(910) 270-9642
www.hampsteadchamber.com

Greater Jacksonville-Onslow
(800) 932-2144/(910) 347-3141
www.jacksonvilleonline.org
www.onslowcountytourism.com

Kenansville Area
(877) UNCORK0/(910) 296-2181
www.uncorkduplin.com

Kenly Chamber
(919) 284-5510
www.kenlynorthcarolina.com

Kinston CVB
(800) 869-0032/(252) 523-2500
www.visitkinston.com

Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber
(252) 527-1131
www.kinstonchamber.com

LaGrange
(252) 527-1131
www.lagrangenorthcarolina.com

Mt. Olive Area Chamber
(919) 658-3113
www.moachamber.com
www.ncpicklefest.org

Nash County Visitors Bureau
(800) 849-6825/(252) 972-5080
www.RockyMountTravel.com

NC Ferries
(800) BY-FERRY
www.ncferry.org

Onslow County Tourism
(800) 932-2144/(910) 347-3141
www.onslowcountytourism.com

Pender County (Burgaw)
(888) 576-4756/(910) 259-1278
www.visitpender.com

Pleasure Island (Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, Fort Fisher)
(800) 631-1460/(910) 341-4030
(800) 641-7082/(877) 406-2356
www.gocapefearcoast.com
www.carolinabeachgetaway.com
www.explorekurebeach.com

Southeastern Welcome Center
(I-95 South, Rowland)
(910) 754-2505

Southport Visitor Center, Southport
(910) 279-4616/(910) 457-7927
www.downtownsouthport.org

Southport-Oak Island Chamber
(800) 457-6964/(910) 457-6964
www.southport-oakisland.com

Tabor City Chamber
(252) 946-9168
www.angelfire.com/nc/taborcitychamber

Tabor City Visitor Center
(910) 653-9712/(910) 653-4141
www.taborcitync.org

Greater Topsail Area
(800) 626-2780/(910) 329-4446
www.topsailcoc.com

Wallace
(910) 285-4044
www.wallacechamber.com

Warsaw Chamber
(910) 293-7804
www.warsawnorthcarolina.com
www.townofwarsawnc.com

Wayne County Chamber
(919) 734-2241
www.waynecountychamber.com

Greater Whiteville
(888) 533-7196/(910) 642-3171
www.whitevillechamber.org
www.discovercolumbusfirst.com

Wilmington/Cape Fear Coast Visitors Center
(800) 650-9106/(910) 341-4030
<http://www.cape-fear.nc.us>

Wrightsville Beach Visitors Center
(800) 650-9106/(910) 256-8116
www.visitwrightsville.com

Cape Lookout National Seashore

Carteret County

By Karen Olson House



The lighthouse at Cape Lookout and the ponies at Shackleford Banks.



It sure isn't the easiest place to reach, but with miles of unspoiled sand and sparkling surf, Cape Lookout National Seashore is worth your trouble.

On a good day you can look down 30 feet through its clear waters. Look up to watch great blue herons. What you don't see are crowds of people. In fact, you may not see anyone at all.

The area's quiet solitude helps make it a beachcomber's paradise. Stroll the beach at low tide, and you can pocket long, intact lighting whelks and shiny queen helmets.

Cape Lookout National Seashore actually consists of 56 miles of undeveloped beach stretched over four barrier islands, from Ocracoke Inlet to Beaufort Inlet, and divided into two sections: South Core Banks and North Core Banks. Islands are reachable only by ferry or private boat. (The exception is you can drive to the visitor center on Harkers Island.)

Ferries

Ferries leave from Morehead City, Beaufort, Davis, Atlantic, Harkers Island and Ocracoke. Rates vary but are roughly \$10 to \$16 per adult, reduced for children. If you want to bring a pet, check first.

You can bring over your vehicle (about \$75–\$80 more) on ferries from Atlantic and Davis. Make sure it can drive in high, soft sand first. All too often, officials-with-better-things-to-do end up helping red-faced vacationers dig vehicles out of sand.


Lodging

There are affordable cabins both at South and North Core Banks: Great Island Cabins, (252) 728-0942, and Long Point Cabins, (252) 728-0958, respectively. You can secure one that sleeps six for \$112 a night in the spring and fall. Better yet, in a nod to the poor economy, a 25 percent discount will be in effect from June 1 through August 30. This means that the same cabin for \$112 can be had for only \$84. Cabins fill up in the fall with fishermen, but can be surprisingly vacant in the summer.

For camping, there are no established campsites anywhere. It's permitted—but you must bring everything you need, and take all trash with you.

Things to do

Popular destinations include Cape Lookout Lighthouse and Assistant Keepers' Quarters Museum, which are ¼ mile from a ferry landing and accessible by boardwalk. (Wheelchairs may need assistance on a steep section.) The lighthouse flashes automated warnings of the treacherous Lookout Shoals, which sailors called the "Horrible Headlands." Its distinct diamond pattern was painted in 1873 so they could tell it apart from other identical lighthouses. From April to October, the nearby historic Assistant Keepers' Quarters is open with exhibits, a mini-theater and programs on lighthouse life and history. Free admission (not counting ferry cost).

Portsmouth Village: Located at the northern part of North Core Banks, this ghost town had 685 people living there in 1860. Historic buildings open to the public include the post office/general store, school, church and the U.S. life-saving station. Restrooms are in the Theodore & Annie Salter house, and compost toilets are on the far side of the village. (In the summer and fall, bring insect repellent.) Free admission (not counting ferry cost). 

Cape Lookout National Seashore

131 Charles Street
Harkers Island, NC 28531
(252) 728-2250

www.nps.gov

Lat 34.755

Long -76.428





Water St. and a view of the Plymouth waterfront.

Plymouth Waterfront

Washington County

By Karen Olson House

Like many people, Harry L. Thompson has work challenges. His biggest challenge, he says, are cannon balls that may go off any minute. Of course, as curator of the Port L. Plymouth Museum, Harry Thompson is a world-class storyteller, but what he says is true.

People who bring him Civil War cannon balls to display don't know that even today, those old balls, if mishandled, can still blow. He remembers one well-intentioned lady from Bath who gave him a cannon ball that had rolled around in her car trunk for the 35 miles it took her to reach the museum. Fortunately, Thompson knows someone in Virginia who can test the balls.

Plymouth history

An educated educator, Thompson relishes showing visitors around the small but impressive museum. Housed in a railroad station on Water Street, it boasts a range of weaponry, engrossing soldier photographs and more. Even better, a 63-foot replica of the CSS Albemarle, the most successful ironclad of the Civil War, is anchored out back. It's smaller than the real deal, but still fires your imagination in what it meant to sink this mighty vessel.

The museum magnifies Plymouth's strong role in the Civil War. Its early history was as an influential port town on Roanoke River with its own customs house. Fiercely contested during the war, only a few pre-Civil War homes and a section of Episcopal Grace Church survive in Plymouth's historic district today.

Although trade rebounded, tragedy felled Plymouth again when fire destroyed most of its commercial district in 1898. Historians note that all buildings on Water Street were built after the fire, except for the Hornthal-Owens store.

Plymouth today

Even so, visitors today have much to see in just a four-block area, bordered by Water Street. God's Creation Wildlife Museum displays North American and African species and a "touch table" where you feel furs. The Maritime Museum has a full-size replica of Cushing's Launch, the avenging torpedo that sunk the CSS Albemarle, along with pleasure and work boats and exhibits telling about work on the river.

You can get tickets here to tour Roanoke River Lighthouse, a masterfully crafted replica across the street where visitors can learn lore such as the typical hours of the real lighthouse

The town of Plymouth

Located off US 64 and NC 32

(252) 793-9101

www.visitplymouthnc.com

LAT: 35.867

LONG: -76.751

keeper (eight days on, eight days off). History buffs can also take an eight-page walking tour (downloaded off the Web site) that includes the Windley-Ausbon House, its chimney still studded by war bullet holes.

Water Street, which fronts Roanoke River, also has antique shops, a wine shop, a bicycle shop with rentals and several eateries. Plymouth Bakery & Café, housed in a former jewelry store, serves soups and quiches alongside retro theatre bills, girlie photos and other displayed kitsch.

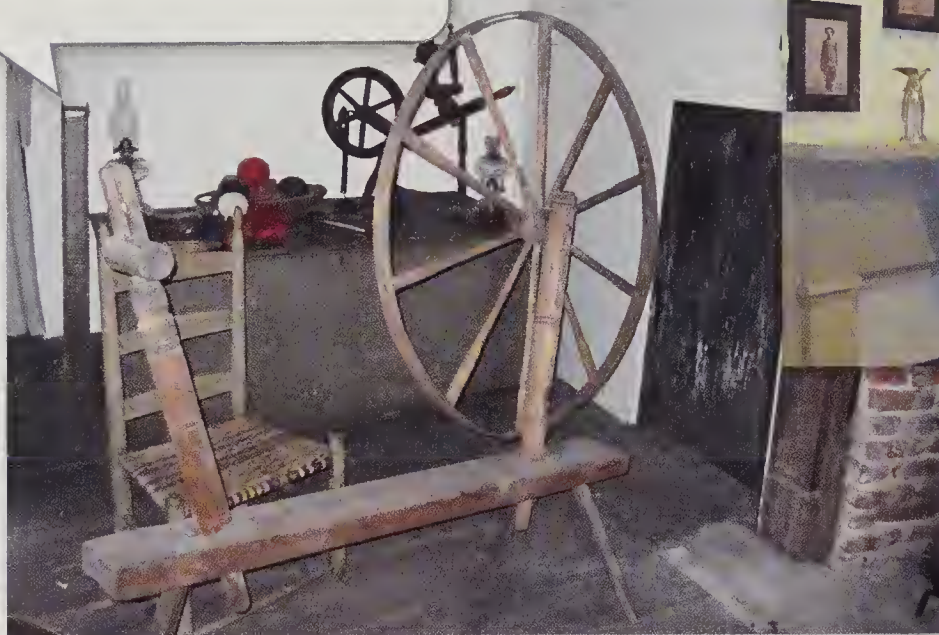
You can spoon a sundae (and sometimes hear local gossip) at Norm's Ice Cream. Another worthy stop is The Book and a Cup. Lodging choices include The Four Gables, an elegant B&B one block from Water Street.

Note: Plymouth's Living History Weekend, a popular re-enactment event, will be held April 24–25. 🌳

May Museum

Pitt County

By Karen Olson House



We are standing in Tabitha DeVisconti's bedroom and historian Donna Kemp is holding up a mysterious half arc, covered in woven material.

"Can you guess what this is?" our tour guide enthusiastically queries, brandishing it high. A beat or two passes, we collectively shake our perplexed heads, and she reveals it's a wheel guard, a vintage item that protected ladies' dresses from mud on automobiles.

It's one of those "You learn something every day" moments, courtesy of the May Museum in Farmville. The museum is ensconced in a two-story home built in 1854 by James Williams May, one of Farmville's founding fathers. His granddaughter Tabitha (pronounced Ta-Beetha), a prominent, accomplished woman, bequeathed her house to Farmville in 1983. Following renovations, the town opened the facility in 1991.

Just after you enter the museum, you can see Tabitha's original bed and clock,

along with her set of dazzlingly white, lacy dresses from the 1920s and 1930s.

Large quilts lining the hallway signal the museum's collection, made by the immediate May family or close relatives in successive generations. The quilts date from the 1830s to 1930s, and many were specially made for presentation. Although nearly all of the quilts can be seen up on the second floor, formal display is rotated.

Toward the back, a room hosts a military veterans exhibit. Kemp solicited personal memorabilia locally, and the result is a display of framed soldier photographs, uniforms, scrapbooks, medals and equipment. Don't miss the "Keep 'em Flying" calendar high over the doorway. The exhibit will be up through Memorial Day.

The second floor includes a nod to the now-defunct Davis Hotel, a once-popular establishment in Farmville. A room there is decorated with an original hotel dresser, baggage and liquor bottle in the wastebasket. A table displays old Spotlight magazines from the early 1930s, designed to welcome tobacco buyers to the area.

Another room features old photographs of Farmville institutions such as the Farmville Light Plant, the Taste Freezer and Antioch Church. More about Tabitha's life is chronicled here

as well. (Get your guide to tell you about Tabitha's parents, particularly her wayward mother, as well as the Kettles murder and ghostly noises heard in the house.)

The back kitchen, moved here from the family farm when the house was built, retains the original interior. There's also a weaving room there of interest.

The museum's operating hours are Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Weekend tours can be arranged by calling for an appointment.

Visiting Farmville

Located less than 15 minutes from Greenville, the town's quaint main street features several buildings from the early 1900s. The Paramount Theatre, an art-deco movie house built in 1921 that once showcased silent movies, now houses the Community Arts Council. Good places to eat include La Falama, a finely decorated Mexican restaurant, and Plank Road Steakhouse.

If you enjoy learning about beer, call ahead to see about an informal tour of the Duck-Rabbit Craft Brewery, a packaging microbrewery specializing in dark beers about a mile from Main Street.

This month, Farmville will host its Dogwood Festival April 23–25. 

May Museum

3802 South Main Street
Farmville, NC

(252) 753-6725

www.maymuseum.org

Lat: 35.596

Long: -77.588



→ Northern Coastland Travel Resources

Ahoskie Chamber

(252) 332-2042
www.ahoskiechamber.com
www.ahoskie-nc.org

Aycock Brown

Welcome Center, Kitty Hawk
(877) OBX-4FUN/(252) 261-4644
www.nagsheadguide.com/
attractions/kittyhawk
www.outerbanks.org

Belhaven Community Chamber

(252) 943-3770
www.belhavenchamber.com

Cape Hatteras

(252) 473-2111
www.nps.gov/caha

Chowan County Tourism, Edenton

(800) 775-0111/(252) 482-3400
www.visitedenton.com

Coast Host

Information on attractions
and accommodation.
www.coasthost-nc.com

Corolla/Currituck Chamber

(252) 453-9497
www.currituckchamber.org

Crystal Coast Tourism Authority

(800) 786-6962/(252) 726-8148
www.crystalcoastnc.org

Dare County

(252) 475-5000
www.darenc.com

Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome

Center, Camden County
(877) 771-8333/(252) 771-8333
www.DismalSwamp.com

Duck

(252) 255-1234
www.townofduck.com

Elizabeth City Area CVB

(866) 324-8948/(252) 335-5330
www.discoverec.org

Farmville Chamber

(252) 753-4670
www.farmville-nc.com

Gates County Manager

(252) 357-1240
www.gatescounty.govoffice2.com

Greene County Tourism Committee

(252) 747-3446/(252) 747-8090
(252) 747-1999
www.visitgreenenc.com

Greenville/Pitt County CVB

(800) 537-5564/(252) 329-4200
www.visitgreenvillenc.com

Havelock Chamber

(252) 447-1101
www.havelockchamber.org

Halifax County CVB

(800) 522-4282/(252) 535-1687
www.visithalifax.com

Historic Albemarle Tour

(800) 734-1117
www.historicalbemarletour.org

Historic Bath Visitor Center

(252) 923-3971
www.bath.nchistoricsites.org

Hyde County Chamber

(888) 493-3826/(252) 926-9171
www.hydecountychamber.org

Kill Devil Hills

(252) 449-5300
www.kdhnc.com

Kitty Hawk

(252) 261-3552
www.townofkittyhawk.org

Lake Gaston Chamber and Visitors Center

(866) 730-5711/(252) 586-5711
www.lakegastonchamber.com

Manteo

(252) 473-2133
www.townofmanteo.com

Martin County Chamber

(252) 792-4131
www.martincountync.com

Martin County Travel & Tourism

(800) 776-8566/(252) 792-6605
www.visitmartincounty.com

Murfreesboro Historical Association

(252) 398-5922
www.murfreesboronc.org

NC Ferries

(800) BY-FERRY
www.ncferry.org

NC Welcome Center

(I-95 North)
(252) 537-3365
www.visitnc.com

NC Welcome Center

(I-85 North).
(252) 456-3236
www.visitnc.com

Nags Head

www.nags-head.com

New Bern Riverfront

Convention and Visitor Center
(800) 437-5767/(252) 637-9400
www.visitnewbern.com

Ocracoke NPS Visitor Center

(252) 928-4531
www.ocracokeisland.com

Outer Banks Chamber

(252) 441-8144
www.outerbankschamber.com

Outer Banks Welcome Center on Roanoke Island

(877) OBX-4FUN/(252) 473-2138
www.outerbanks.org

Pamlico County Chamber

(252) 745-3008
www.pamlicochamber.com
www.pamlicodirectory.com

Partnership for the Sounds

(800) 737-0437/(252) 796-1000
www.partnershipforthesounds.org

Perquimans County Chamber

(252) 426-5657
www.visitperquimans.com

Roanoke River Partners

(252) 792-0070
www.roanokeriverpartners.org

Roanoke Valley Chamber

(252) 537-3513
www.rvchamber.com

Rocky Mount

(252) 972-1111
www.rockymountnc.gov

Rocky Mount Chamber

(252) 446-0323
www.rockymountchamber.org

Scotland Neck

(252) 826-3152
www.townofscotlandneck.com

Southern Shores

(252) 261-2394
www.southernshores-nc.gov

Swansboro Chamber

(910) 326-1174
www.swansboroncchamber.com
www.tourswansboro.com

Tarboro-Edgecombe Chamber

(252) 823-7241
www.tarborochamber.com

Greater Tyrrell County Chamber

(252) 796-1996
www.visittyrrellcounty.com

Washington County Tourism

(252) 793-3248
www.visitwashingtoncountync.com
www.gowildnc.org

Washington Visitor Information

(800) 546-0162/(252) 948-9415
www.originalwashington.com

Wilson Visitors Bureau

(800) 497-7398/(252) 243-8440
www.wilson-nc.com

Windsor/Bertie County Chamber

(252) 794-4277
www.albemarle-nc.com/windsor
www.windsorbertiechamber.com



“In Search of a New Deal: Images of North Carolina, 1935–1941”

A Museum of History exhibit shows rural life during Great Depression

A new photography and film exhibit, enlivened by time-period music and theatrical artifacts, is reminding visitors that while North Carolina life was simpler in the old days, it also was hard.

As you walk in, the sight of a Firestone Air Chief Radio and soft blues music playing overhead help set the mood to view the historic photographs along the wall. Visitors see children playing with pictures from a Sears Roebuck catalogue, graders working at a pick table for 20 cents an hour, migrants on their way to pick potatoes, farmers getting their checks at a tobacco warehouse under a cigarette advertisement lettered “Luckies 2 to 1,” a young girl helping in the grading and tying of tobacco in a bedroom of her home.

The candid photos are part of “In Search of a New Deal: Images of North Carolina, 1935–1941,” an exhibit that features 50 Farm Security Administration photographs at the North Carolina Museum of History in downtown Raleigh.

The photographs were taken when bank failures, plummeting crop prices, and environmental problems brought further hardships to North Carolina farmers. Originally produced by Historic Oak View County Park, the exhibit is supplemented with Depression-era artifacts from the museum’s collection, including tools used in tobacco farming, a quilt commemorating Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidential victories; campaign buttons and signage indicative of the

racial boundaries of the segregated Depression-era South.

A console booth at the exhibit, colorfully decorated like an art-deco theatre, plays Depression-era footage of everyday folks in their Tar Heel towns. The interactive console lets visitors choose three towns: Hillsborough in 1940, Jackson in 1939 and Cliffside in 1937. The silent footage, shot by Lexington filmmaker H. Lee Waters, shows juicy slices of that town’s daily life: kids showing off on monkey bars, women buying canned goods in an establishment quite spare compared to today’s crammed stores, young football players scrimmaging on a makeshift field and robust men in overalls winking, grinning and mugging openly for Water’s locally famous movie camera.

Opposite: Group of Florida migrants on their way to Cranberry, New Jersey, to pick potatoes. Near Shawboro, North Carolina. Photograph by Jack Delano, July 1940. Image courtesy of Library of Congress.



Country store on dirt road on a Sunday afternoon. Note the kerosene pump on the right and the gasoline pump on the left. Photograph by Dorothea Lange, July 1939. Image courtesy of Library of Congress.



Children making ice cream to be sold for the benefit of the church at a ministers and deacons meeting near Yanceyville, Caswell County, North Carolina. Photograph by Marion Post Wolcott, Oct. 1940. Image courtesy of Library of Congress.



Titus Oakley's daughter helping in the grading and tying of tobacco in their bedroom as it had gotten too cold to work in the strip house. She is eight years old and is 'taking off' the tobacco. Shot in Shoofly, Granville County. Photograph by Marion Post Wolcott, 1939. Image courtesy of Library of Congress.



Mr. R.B. Whitley visiting his general store. He was president of the bank, and said to own and run practically all of the town. A big landowner, he owned Whitley-Davis farm and a cotton mill in Clayton. He said he cut down the trees and pulled the stumps out of the main street, and was the first man in the town of Wendell, Wake County, North Carolina. Photograph by Marion Post Wolcott, September 1939. Image courtesy of Library of Congress.

The console and footage provides a whimsical touch to the overall exhibit.

In addition to the framed photographs, an interactive TV console lets you see more North Carolina photographs from the FSA collection. Press buttons to view snapshots from these categories: Community, Gatherings, Migrant Workers, Children, Tobacco Farm Auctions, Cotton Farming, Government Relief Programs and Beneficiaries, Environmental Problems and Farm Life.


Americans are fortunate to have so many candid photographic images of such a bleak and frugal time. After his 1932 election, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used his New Deal programs to bring national attention to the farmers' plight. Photographers traveled

across the country to document conditions among the rural poor and the impact of government relief efforts. The project resulted in thousands of poignant pictures.

The traveling photographers worked for the new Resettlement (later Farm Security) Administration. "The exhibit highlights the work of the eight photographers who came to North Carolina," says Diana Bell-Kite, associate curator at the N.C. Museum of History.

These "reality" photographers of the day included Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans and Jack Delano. They captured the harsh truths of the era: the weary faces of migrant workers, children preparing tobacco for market, a family's living quarters in the second story of a barn. But all was not grim. Photos

at the museum's exhibit in Raleigh also convey lighter moments, such as women socializing at the grocery store, children making ice cream for a church benefit, and farmers using government loans to acquire new livestock.

"In Search of a New Deal" opened in late October 2009 and will run through Jan. 31, 2011. Admission is free. Exhibit sponsorship is provided by UNC-TV. 

—Karen Olson House

"In Search of a New Deal: Images of North Carolina, 1935–1941"

North Carolina Museum of History

Hours: Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday, noon–5 p.m.

Free admission

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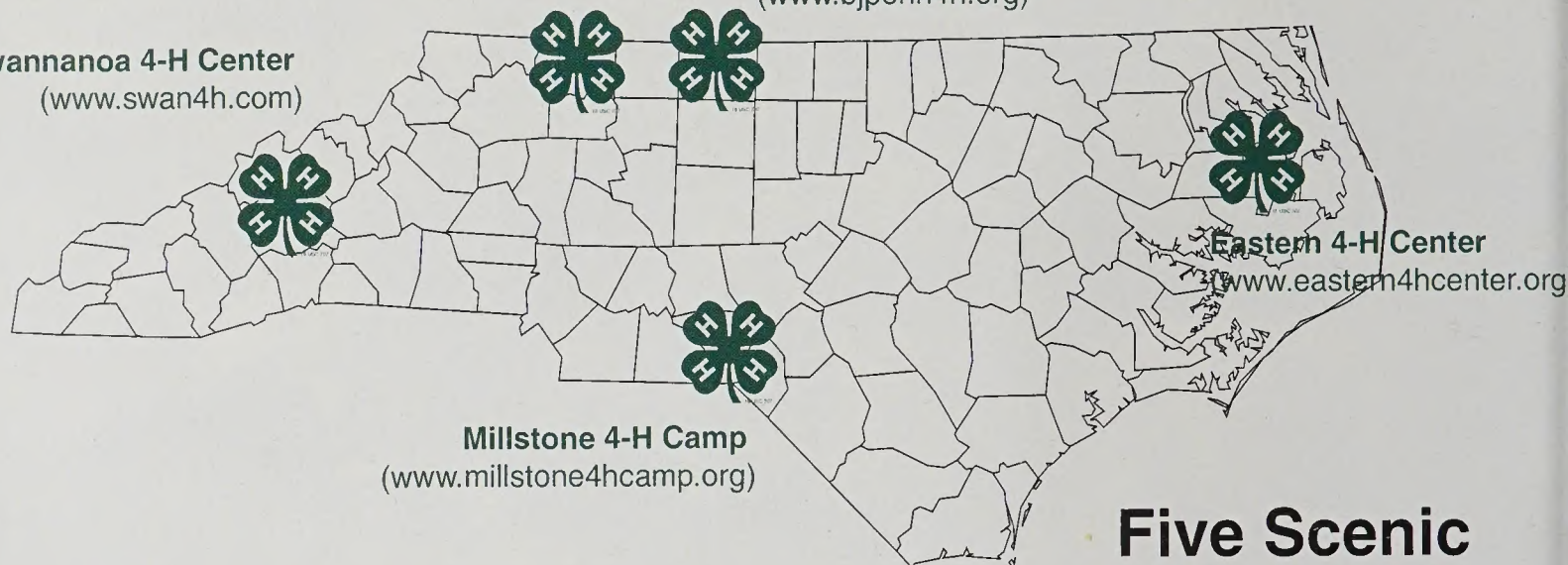
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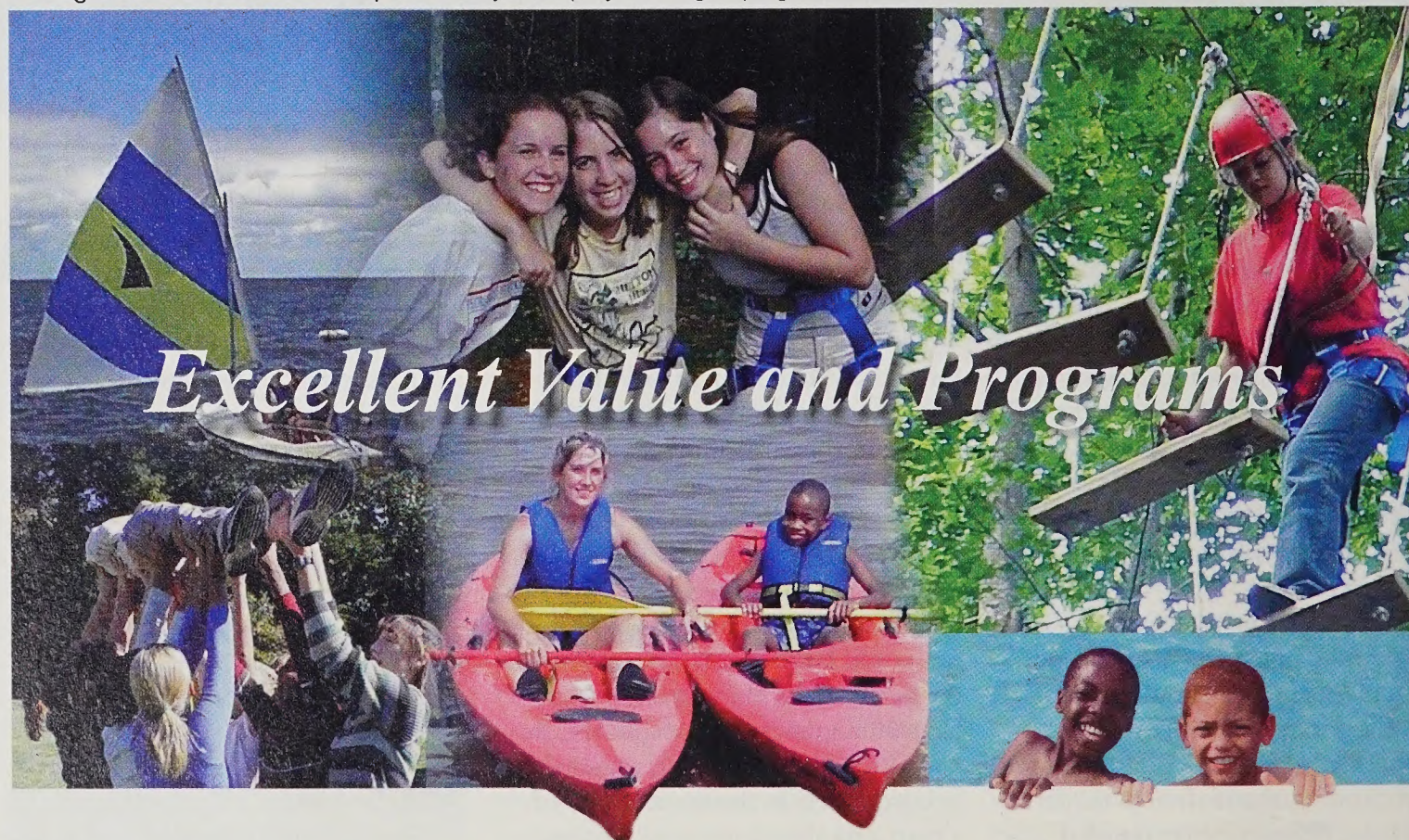
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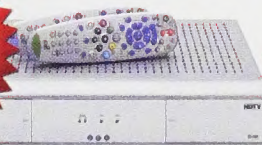
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5	N/A	N/A
15	N/A	N/A
35	\$ 1.79	\$ 1.49
55	\$ 4.30	\$ 3.55
65	\$ 7.18	\$ 5.41
75	\$ 13.24	\$ 8.85
85	\$ 26.26	\$ 17.67

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